

THE JOURNAL

December 19, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

Sports David Ball leads Gauchos to soccer win over Hercules [C1]

Arts Oakland Art Gallery hosts powerful 'Circle of Memory' exhibit [C16]

Council
 Steps panel
 act despite
 claims

 members on now-
 ended board to settle
 view conflicts are
 in such disputes

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

 CERRITO — Hill-dwellers
 have the advantage of great
 views. They also often have tall
 trees. Normally this is fine — un-
 less neighbor's trees grow too
 close to another's views. In such
 accounts, the problem
 is resolved in-
 amicably. If the
 view with the view com-
 other neighbor tops
 the trees and life goes

 there's a stalemate, the
 an ordinance meant to
 the dispute. But it has
 as have many cities
 the state, that the ordi-
 nance is controversial.
 of the handful of claims
 have been filed under the or-
 have ever been resolved.
 the city put its tree
 on hiatus and or-
 to come up with recom-
 for a new version of

 the public-comment work-
 the most recent was
 night — have drawn
 of residents, and emo-
 continued to run high.
 issue boiled over at Mon-
 council meeting, where an
 made to remove two
 of the tree commis-
 themselves involved in
 neighbor view dis-

 City Council decided Paul
 Snyder and Sue Wockner
 on the tree commis-
 some of those who spoke
 that the two were bi-
 favor of trees.

 Davis, who filed a view
 in October asking the city
 to delete a dispute between
 and Gilbert-Snyder that
 back to July 2000, was one
 who spoke against the
 commissioners.

 not personal at all," said
 "I don't care who's on the
 commission as long as it's
 good."

 neighbor of Wockner's also
 claim for mediation of a
 in 2000.

 the tree commissioner
 Langhauser, who lives on
 the street as Gilbert-Sny-
 called his and Wock-
 participation a conflict of
 interest. Her complaints led to
 the Pro Tem Sandi Potter's
 to bring the issue before
 council.

 saw it as a legitimate
 contained by a number of peo-
 ple, said.

 however, the complaints were
 to "weed out" com-
 plaints, said Friends of El
 Cerrito Trees coordinator Ann
 Potter. She called it a witch
 hunt and undemocratic.

 the commission on hi-
 at no longer deciding tree
 issues, there's no potential for
 a lack of interest, one resident
 said out at the meeting.
 the episode does illustrate
 how polarizing the issue has
 become.

 the ordinances around the
 city, and people on both
 sides of the issue in El Cerrito
 find examples of what they
 don't like their city's to be.

 a new proponent Davis favors
 a more style ordinance that
 gives city mediation and
 gives the dispute to the court

See TREES, Page A16



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

TEA-DRINKING CLUB chairman Henry Parsons, 13, pours tea through a screen that catches any loose leaves during a meeting at Celadon tea house in Albany on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Children explore finer points of tea

Kids Tea Connoisseurs Club meets at a Solano Avenue tea house to learn about cultural aspects and correct brewing methods

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Encircled by a round, green table, Willie Parsons serves up one of his favorite teas in a tea shop after hours.

After a precise brewing process, he pours the tea into tiny saucers. Friends sip while nibbling on scones. They rap two knuckles on the table as a thank-you.



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

WILLIE PARSONS, 10, of Berkeley, sips green tea.

KIDS TEA CLUB

WHAT: Kids Tea Connoisseurs Club

WHERE: Celadon Fine Teas, 1111 Solano Ave. in Albany

WHEN: First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m.

DETAILS: Call 510-524-1696

COST: \$10 a month, the first month free. Discounts available.

"Over the years, it's evolved into a fine ceremony," said Willie, who is 9 years old and at ease explaining the cultural aspects of tea drinking.

Willie is part of a tea group

for children, which meets the first and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Celadon Fine Teas, the shop on Solano Avenue.

Celadon has muted lighting, a quiet Asian motif and nearly 70 types of teas, many found only in China and Taiwan. The shop opened in June 2002 and offers tea classes and lectures, private events, catering and tea demonstrations.

With a refined taste for tea, Henry Parsons, Willie's 13-year-old brother, started the Kids Tea Connoisseurs Club early this year with the blessing of Celadon co-owner Winnie Yu. Others have joined through word of mouth.

Nine-year-old Sophia Zaidman lives near the tea shop and goes there once a week to do her homework. Like her friends, she quickly "realized this was way better than the tea in the weird packets."

The teas at Celadon are loose-leaf, stored in jars.

Willie opened a silver jar containing Pre-Rained Dragon Well, so named because it is picked before the torrential rainy season in China, and allowed people at the tea bar to view and smell it. He then poured water into saucers and placed cups on the saucers.

"It's to get the cups accustomed to the heat, so when the

See TEA, Page A14

El Cerrito joins 11 cities on regional plans

City Council votes unanimously to endorse Shaping Our Future

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council unanimously endorsed the principles of a regional planning document intended to shape how the county will grow in the next two decades, despite questions from one council member about how it would benefit the city.

The principles are the foundation of Shaping Our Future, a regional planning approach that attempts to shift Contra Costa's development from sprawling subdivisions into more urban locations closer to mass transit.

Twelve Contra Costa cities and the Board of Supervisors have now endorsed the concept, more than half the county's 20 jurisdictions. While the plan has earned unanimous votes in most places, it squeaked by with 3-2 votes in Danville, Pittsburg and

Brentwood.

One resident pleaded with the El Cerrito council not to endorse the planning principles because it would take power out of the hands of local jurisdictions.

"I feel this is part of a widespread movement in the U.S. to move decision-making out of the hands of local officials and into the hands of bureaucrats," said Marilynne Mellander, an El Sobrante resident.

Councilwoman Gina Brusatori said she had mixed feelings about the document because it didn't address whether it would treat cities fairly. In addition, she said, El Cerrito has little in common with cities in central and east Contra Costa County. A planning effort unifying cities along Interstate 80 would make more sense, she said.

"I have a real problem with the premise," Brusatori said. "How is this serving (El Cerrito)?"

Mayor Letitia Moore warned that the city could be forgotten

See SHAPING, Page A14

Albany resident decries quality of mail service

'Spotty' mail service draws complaint and varying degrees of concern, indifference

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — People agree that mail delivery isn't consistent in a quiet Albany neighborhood a few blocks east of San Pablo and north of Solano avenues, but they disagree on its significance.

Talbot Avenue resident Lynn Wissler said mail delivery has been spotty for the 12 years she's lived there. Mail was not delivered to her house for three days last month. She found that shocking and mysterious.

Resident Robert Steiner said it isn't that bad. The mail comes between 11 a.m. and noon every day. If it doesn't, that probably means the regular mail carrier was out that day.

"When there's a substitute

(mail carrier), sometimes we get the mail late," he said. "But most of the time I don't think the mail service is that bad here."

Mail is sorted in Oakland, delivered to three buildings in Berkeley and then delivered to Albany, said a woman who answered the phone at the Albany post office. The process is overseen by Berkeley and Albany postmaster George Banks. He did not return calls for comment.

Wissler said she's spoken to Banks, and has left messages, but feels she has received inadequate explanations for the spotty mail service. She was told that the problem stems from sick mail carriers. The problem continues even though Banks promised it would be solved, she said.

"What we don't understand is why it happens, why it can't be fixed and why there can't be any back-up carriers," she said. "Are they trying to save money?"

See MAIL, Page A16



GREGORY UROJAGA/STAFF

Bringing out the sheep

JOHN WILSON and Barbara Lanier erect the music pole for the Sundar Shadi Christmas sculptures on Saturday December 13, 2003 in El Cerrito. The famed Christmas display, a tradition of more than 50 years featuring figures handmade by the late Shadi, is being carried on by the Soroptimist Club.

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At the Library

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O, Holy Night

■ Theories, but no definitive answers to the origin of the Christmas Star. Page A6



Martin Snapp

■ Christmas day will also mark the 100th birthday of a remarkable local woman. Page A3

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KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Seniors may be exempt from parcel tax

Seniors 65 and older, or those who will turn 65 before July 1, may qualify for an exemption from the Albany Schools 1999 Parcel Tax Measure A.

Residents can find an application for exemption at the Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Ave. An exemption form must be completed and on file for it to be processed. To have a form mailed to you, call Darlene Mock at 510-558-3766. Seniors who have already received the exemption do not need to reapply.

The deadline for applications to be returned to the Albany school district administrative office is May 1.

Solano Avenue holidays include cable car

A free San Francisco-style cable car will provide shuttle service up and down Solano and San Pablo avenues in Albany, on Thursday, Dec. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Information: Albany Chamber of Commerce, 510-525-1771, or visit www.albanychamber.org. Other highlights: street performers including jazz bands, carolers, talking trees and tropical Christmas dancers. Santa will pose for photos with kids and pets next on Saturday, Dec. 20 in Peralta Park, 1561 Solano from 1-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21 Sweet Potatoes, 1224 Solano from 1-3 p.m. Visit www.solanoave.org for entertainer's schedules and locations or see below.

Help out by giving to sock trees, toy drives

New pairs of socks for kids or adults, stuffed with toiletries, and tied with red ribbons can be put on one of the Solano Sock Trees located in banks on Solano Avenue, including California Bank & Trust, 1451 Solano; The Mechanics Bank, 1801 Solano; The Mechanics Bank, 801 San Pablo; or Wells Fargo Bank, 1800 Solano. Socks will be distributed to local shelters. New, unwrapped toys can be put in the Toys for Tots barrel at Marvin Gardens Real Estate, 1579 Solano; Powder Box, 1757 Solano; Red Oak Realty, 1891 Solano and The Mechanics Banks at 1801 Solano & 801 San Pablo Ave.

Sing-along will feature carols and candles

Pianist Wendy Worsley will lead a candlelight community sing-along on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Ray's Christmas Tree Lot, 1245 Solano Ave. For more information call Solano Avenue Association at 510-527-5358.

Police, fire help collect Toys for Tots

For the past eight years the Albany Police and Fire departments have supported the Toys for Tots program, the program in which the Marine Corps Reserve has participated since 1947. Officer David A. Belman Jr., who is also a Marine, coordinates the Albany program. New, unwrapped toys can be placed in toy barrels until Dec. 23 at the following Albany locations: Police Department (24 hours), Fire Department, City Hall, Albany Pool, Albany Ford, B of A, Citibank, Mary & Joe's Sports Shop, Norge Cleaners & World Savings Bank.

Albany looking for many volunteers

The city needs volunteers for both long-term assignments and special events in a variety of city departments; at City Hall, at the Senior Center, at the Police Department, and more. For details contact Ely Hwang, volunteer coordinator, at 510-559-7225 or ehwang@albanyca.org.

El Cerrito

Page Turners schedule January meeting

El Cerrito High School's book group, Page Turners, will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in Room 604 to discuss "The Mistress of Spices," by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The 3-year-old group welcomes parents, students, teachers and siblings. The meetings are open to anyone in the El Cerrito school community.

For information call Paula Gocker or Joan Cone at 510-524-9560.

West County

School district puts freeze on hiring

The West Contra Costa school district has announced a freeze on employee hiring and overtime. The move comes as the district's budgeted expenses for the current year exceed expected revenues by \$16 million, said Ruth Vedovelli, assistant superintendent for fiscal services. Vedovelli also is projecting a \$23.6 million deficit for the 2004-05 school year. District officials blame the financial mess on state cuts to education and "inflation-related" increases in employee benefits, workers compensation, utilities and other costs.

Emergency medical care committee seat

Supervisor John Gioia is seeking a qualified, motivated candidate to fill a District 1 alternate seat on the Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Care Committee. The volunteer committee reviews and advises the Board of Supervisors on the delivery of emergency medical care in the county, including ambulance services, emergency medical care, and first aid practices. The committee meets four times annually, or more as needed. Terms are two years.

Candidates should have some interest or background in emergency medical care, but need not be professionals in the field. Anyone interested in applying should contact Art Lathrop, Director of Emergency Medical Services, at 925-646-4690, or Kate Rauch, District Coordinator, at 510-374-3231.

East Bay

Seasonal celebration at park carousel

The carousel Tilden Regional Park will be alight every night from 5 to 8:30 p.m. for the "Christmas Fantasy" through Tuesday, Dec. 23. Visitors can ride the animals, hear calliope music, and enjoy weeknight storytelling sessions, ornaments and appearances by Santa. Information: 510-524-6773.

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ALBANY POLICE

Monday, Dec. 8

■ **LOCKER BREAK-IN** — During the night, thieves broke into lockers on the 600 block of Adams Street.

■ **NO BAIL WARRANT** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers stopped a white '96 Isuzu near Castro and Madison Streets for expired registration. The driver, a 49-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have a no-bail warrant from Contra Costa County for DUI. He was cited and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **PURSE THIEF** — Thieves stole a purse from a shopping cart at the Safeway on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

■ **ROBBERS** — At about 4:30 a.m., a resident in the 1000 block of Kains Avenue reported that masked robbers armed with several large guns kicked in the front door and demanded money and drugs from him and his roommate. They fled in a vehicle and were gone when officers arrived. Police are investigating.

■ **JUVENILE BURGLARY** — At about 1:30 p.m. an employee at Safeway reported that the store had a juvenile in custody for theft of alcohol. Officers arrested the 16-year-old Albany boy on suspicion of burglary. He was released to his parents.

EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, Dec. 4

■ **BURGLARY** — Someone kicked in the front door of a residence and ransacked the master bedroom, stealing property, on the 6800 block of Cutting Boulevard between 6:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A black two-door 1994 Acura Integra was taken between 6 p.m. Dec. 4 and 9 a.m. Dec. 5 from the 400 block of Liberty Street.

Friday, Dec. 5

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A thief broke into a vehicle on the 800 block of Seaview Drive between 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5 and 12:45 a.m. Dec. 6, prying at the stereo but not removing anything.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Bowling equipment valued at more than \$1,000 was taken from an unlocked car on the 2000 block of San Mateo Street between 7 p.m. and just after midnight.

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — An officer was dispatched to investigate a shoplifter at Target at about 6:30 p.m.; police

Thursday, Dec. 11

■ **DUI** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers stopped a gray '87 Honda Civic on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue for speeding. The driver, a 20-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to be intoxicated and did poorly on the field sobriety test. He was arrested on suspicion of DUI, cited and released.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 11:30 p.m. officers responded to a bar in the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a customer causing a disturbance and refusing to leave. They arrested the 39-year-old San Leandro man on suspicion of disorderly conduct and released him.

Friday, Dec. 12

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — Shortly before 1 a.m. officers responded to the same bar and arrested a 26-year-old Albany man on suspicion of disorderly conduct. He was also cited and released.

■ **CAR STOLEN** — A resident in the 1000 block of Stannage Avenue reported that during the night thieves stole her green '96 Honda Accord that was parked in her driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ **ANOTHER CAR STOLEN** — A resident in the 1000 block of Solano Avenue reported that thieves had stolen his red '91 Dodge Shadow. There were no witnesses.

say she bypassed the store registers and set off alarm sensors. Police arrested a 41-year-old Richmond woman for theft and took her to the Martinez jail.

Saturday, Dec. 6

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A black 1994 Honda Civic was stolen from a driveway on the 3000 block of Santa Clara Avenue between midnight and 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 7

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — At about 6:30 a.m. officer investigating a report of shoplifting arrested a 51-year-old Richmond man who Target employees said had concealed merchandise in a bag he was carrying and set off the alarm sensors. He was arrested for theft and taken to the Martinez jail.

Monday, Dec. 8

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Between 1:45 and 3 p.m. someone entered a 1997 white Ford Escort in a carport on the 6000 block of Schmidt Lane, taking a black wool jacket and a pur-

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers arrested a 52-year-old Richmond man at the Bank of America in the 1600 block of Solano Avenue on an outstanding warrant for domestic violence. He was cited and released.

■ **POSSESSION** — Officers stopped a white '88 Dodge pickup in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 20-year-old Oakland man, on suspicion of possessing marijuana for sale. He was cited and taken to the Berkeley Jail.

Saturday, Dec. 13

■ **CAR STOLEN** — At about 2:15 a.m. a resident in the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue reported that a thief had just stolen his gold '94 Saturn from the driveway.

Sunday, Dec. 14

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 9 a.m. officers stopped a black '89 Toyota pickup for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 40-year-old Albany man, was found to have an outstanding San Mateo warrant for driving with a suspended license in the amount of \$3,000.

■ **PACKAGE STOLEN** — During the night, thieves stole a package off a porch on the 800 block of Talbot Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **BOOKING** — A 48-year-old San Rafael woman reported to the police station for a court-ordered booking.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

■ **BURGLARY** — A minor was arrested at Target at about 8 p.m. for entering the store with an empty bag and shoplifting \$20 worth of merchandise. The juvenile was released to a parent after booking.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Between 1 a.m. and noon someone stole a white 1990 Acura Legend from south parking lot of the Past Time hardware store.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1993 Mercedes SE500 was stolen sometime between 9:45 p.m. Dec. 9 and 7:40 a.m. Dec. 10 from the 700 block of Balra Drive.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A victim call to say someone had just burglarized his Mercedes on the 8000 block of Roberta Drive at about 3:30 a.m. The victim reported that his car's On Star system had been activated when the rear passenger window was broken out; On Star called him. The thief

Help find those extraordinary women

The search is on for 10 extraordinary women who will be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame in March 2004. Hall of Fame organizers kicked off the 11th annual search for entrants with a presentation before the Board of Supervisors, which passed a proclamation pledging continued support for the effort.

Nomination forms are being distributed and must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 9, 2004. Women of all ages, including youth, may be nominated in the

categories of business, community service, art, education, environmental preservation, justice, science, sports and recreation. Nominees should be nominated in their respective career or volunteer positions, with achievements that have benefited the community. Nomination forms may be picked up at the County's Administration Center at 1221 Oak Street, Suite 555 or sent to nominate@alameda-county.org. The deadline for nominations is at 510-259-3871.

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Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, HR

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Neighbors

ACES & FACES



CLUB members Dana Milner, left, and Roxanne Willey wield shovels to move mulch around three just-planted trees in Albany Dec. 13. The landscaping on Key Route is the first project of the Community Foundation.

Vista United Church of Christ will have a Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and a Christmas singalong on Dec. 28. **Susan Meeter** is pastor. The church is at 7075 Cutler Ave., El Cerrito. Information: 510-234-0110.

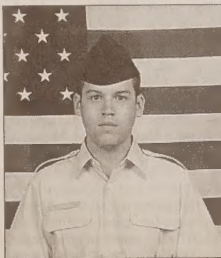
Pvt. Tenzin D. Subbar graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Co., S.C. During the nine-month mission, he studied the mission, history, tradition and as basic combat skills,

weapons, drill and ceremony, marching and more. He is the son of Tenzin Oser and Nagwang Dolma of Albany and is a 2003 graduate of Albany High School.

Air Force Airman Lawrence M. Rogers has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, he studied the Air Force mission, organization, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony marches, field training exercises, special training in human relations and more.

He is the son of Donna Rogers of Modesto, and grandson of Andrew Huerta of Richmond.

Have an item about a scholarship, an award, an interesting vacation or other experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo, print or digital, we can use those, too (sorry, we cannot return print photos). Send it to the editor, by e-mailing: journal@cctimes.com, or mailing to: Neighbors, The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806.



Lawrence M. Rogers

Middle schools get together over musical interests

HALFWAY UP the El Cerrito hill that is Moeser Lane, you find two sorts of water-corned each other. On the North side of Portola Middle School, of the West Contra Costa School District. Across the street to the south is the middle school campus of Prospect Sierra, a private school.

They have had little to do with each other, until now. Under a program started by Sara Van Dette of Prospect Sierra, the two Portola students have joined their orchestra. An exchange to both schools.

Due to budget cuts, Van explained, Portola recently lost its Orchestra class, but for several years by Yonemura. They still have band classes and a jazz band, but there was nothing for the students who played strings. Prospect Sierra, on the other hand, a small school, need for more strings in orchestra.

What a stroke of good fortune that the string players from a class could walk across the street and fill the need for strings at Prospect Sierra," she said. "Melony Portola principal, graciously excused the students in their to play concerts."

So dedicated are the Portola students that they come to PS



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

in the morning, before 8 o'clock, for rehearsals, every Friday morning and often on Thursdays for sectional rehearsals. And they cross the street back to Portola in time for their morning classes.

The students from Portola are violinists and cellists. Lucy Cain, Martine Montgomery, Alec Takemiya and David Whitney play the violins, while Liana Miles and Sharon Yeazel are on the cellos. Two home-schooled middle school students also have joined. They are flutists Elana Cohen and James Yen.

The Prospect Sierra orchestra is conducted by Jack Bailey and Sara Van Dette. Sara is a music specialist at PS and conductor of the lower school orchestra. She has brought several innovations to the orchestra, including adapting the music to include recorders. Since there are several students of the recorder at the school, this is a way to include them and enhance the orchestra.

"The merger is in its begin-

ning stages, but the group is already sounding like a dedicated group of middle-school musicians," she says. "They played two concerts in November, one at the PS lower school campus and then for the PS Middle School audience. They played a Baroque suite, a Mozart selection from 'The Magic Flute,' and entertained the audiences by ending with 'Rock Around The Clock.'"

The orchestra hopes to perform soon at Portola, and then plans to visit and play a joint concert with the Middle-High school orchestra in Hercules. Later in the year, as he has in the past, Michael Morgan, conductor of the Oakland East Bay Orchestra, will coach the group.

There is a Web site at

www.prospectsierra.org that tells about the school's orchestra and even has some of the music on line for students to hear and practice with. Steve Haflich, a parent and musician at Prospect Sierra set up this site for the students.

Sara Van Dette, in addition to her work with the school, also gives private piano lessons at home. A very busy and very dedicated lady. You mention her name at Prospect Sierra and people beam. She is what a teacher should, and must be.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

A WILL OR A TRUST: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

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1150 Ballena Blvd., Alameda

When: Wed., Jan. 14th @ 7 PM
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100 years later, she's just getting started

MANY HAPPY returns to Marion Martin of Berkeley, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Christmas Day.

Of course, she won't be here to celebrate it. She'll be on a cruise ship off the coast of Mexico, partying the night away.

Since she won't be available on the big day, more than 150 friends and family came from all over the country to throw her a birthday bash at Northbrae Community Church on Saturday. They included two children, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, all devoted to their beloved "Nana."

"When I ran away from home at age 16, who do you think I ran to?" says granddaughter Mimi Cornelius of Belvedere, who now has grandchildren of her own. "I was so mad at my parents, but Nana let me be me."

"We'd go to Nana's house and have a great time making an absolute mess of the place," recalls another granddaughter, Jan Hedman of Nevada City. "Nana never got mad. She just loved it."

Marion Church was born in Victoria, B.C., in 1903. Her father died when she was 3, and her mother moved the family to Berkeley.

"She thought a university town would be a good place to bring up kids because it would be quiet," says Martin. "Little did she know!"

From an early age she showed an unmistakable artistic talent, which earned her a full scholarship to the California College of Arts and Crafts. She still works at her art every day, painting, sculpting, throwing pots, or her latest passion, arranging flowers.

In 1918, when she was 15, a devastatingly handsome boy named Hugh Martin moved next door. Sparks flew immediately, and two years later — defying their parents, who thought they were too young — they eloped.

Everyone said it wouldn't last, and they were right: It only lasted 65½ years, until Hugh died in 1986.

"Every time they parted, even if my father was only going out to mow the lawn, they kissed goodbye," recalls their older daughter, Jean Loomis of Walnut Creek. "And every time they saw each other again, they



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

kissed hello."

Not that they didn't fight. Hugh, a banker, was a staunch Republican. Marion cast her first presidential ballot for Al Smith in 1928 and has voted the straight Democratic ticket ever since. Her favorite president: FDR. Her least favorite: "The one we have now."

In 1927 she and Hugh moved into the house she still lives in. That house became the meeting place for a group of young professionals who met there every Saturday night to drink bathtub gin. (And very good bathtub gin at that; one of the group was a doctor, who could get pure ethyl alcohol legally.)

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Hugh was forced to take a 10 percent pay cut. "And we were grateful for that. So many of our friends lost their jobs."

Throughout World War II, Marion worked in a medical laboratory, making false teeth for G.I.s who needed reconstructive facial surgery, while Hugh — too old for active service — was the local air raid warden.

She lives alone now, except for her beloved cat, Truffles. She gave up driving five years ago, which cramps her style, but she's still turning out high-quality art every day. Her walls are covered with her paintings; but her home isn't a museum, it's a workshop.

She still attends tai chi classes three times a week. She even found time to write and illustrate a children's book, "Clatter the Cable Car."

The secret of her longevity? Some say it's because she's such a loving and cheerful person, and that's true. Others say it's because she's so active, and that's also true.

But there's a third reason: She refuses to live in either the past or the future. For her, the present is everything.

It's an attitude that's served her well for 100 years. Maybe we can learn from her example.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Time to slow down,
enjoy the season

WE KNOW the complaint: The holidays, particularly Christmas, have become too commercialized, and the selling begins too early.

But by this time of year, with Christmas just days away and Hanukkah beginning tonight, it's time to stop and enjoy even the commercial expression of the holidays.

Lights, tinsel, all manner of decorations trim El Cerrito Plaza and the shops on Solano Avenue, and it suddenly all seems OK.

But if that still inspires nothing but a "bah humbug" in your soul, look to the noncommercial celebrations, because there are many.

There are volunteer opportunities — toy drives, families to be adopted — school, religious and community concerts, tree-lightings and holiday displays by homeowners.

Of course, no one did those better than the late Sundar Shadi, who for decades turned the hill beside his El Cerrito home into a fantasyland depicting the Nativity.

His spirit lives on thanks to caring volunteers including a couple of former El Cerrito mayors, the El Cerrito Community Foundation, the Soroptimist Club, a retired firefighter, a businessman and an Eagle Scout.

The result is the sculptures can be seen once again, this time on the corner of Moeser and Seaview. And, as we've mentioned before, you can help keep it all going by sponsoring a sculpture, from a sheep for \$25 to the Big Blue Star for \$350, and other figures and amounts in between (call Jane Bartke at 510-235-1315 to find out more).

Though few of us have the time, skill, space or motivation to do anything close to what Mr. Shadi accomplished — and it seems appropriate that his display should have been unique — many of our neighbors still put on an amazing show.

Homeowners all over town seem to love trimming their eaves with dazzling lights, dotting their lawns with spiral-lit trees and giant blow-up snowmen, and even ascending to their own rooftops to display reindeer, angels and stars. There's a charm to these home-grown decorations that can't be denied.

If decorating isn't your thing, maybe this is the year to start other new traditions. Gather your church group, Scout troop or just a bunch of friends and walk through the neighborhood singing carols if you haven't tried it before.

If your extended family's getting too large to give everyone a gift, buy presents just for the kids — perhaps the rest of the family can donate small amounts to one bigger gift to the needy in the family's name.

Remind yourself that you don't have to go broke buying presents — in fact, those you give gifts to would probably prefer that you didn't. Encourage children to make presents for their friends and family members.

We'll all enjoy the holidays more if we take time to slow down, appreciate the trimmings, savor the season, help someone who needs it.

Happy holidays to you and yours.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Canyon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1600N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 1801 N. California Blvd., Ste. 103, Walnut Creek CA 94596; 925-932-8899 or 1122 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-0983, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Giola: (1st District) 11780 San

Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Sirri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsirri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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MACCABEES.WERE THEY
ALLERGIC?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buy gas-efficient autos

Trucks and SUVs should have a minimum gas mileage similar to a car's amount. Currently, cars, SUVs and other light trucks use up to 8 million barrels of oil every day.

The United States spends \$200,000 a minute buying foreign oil overseas. Some 50 percent of the passenger vehicles bought in the United States are light trucks and SUVs. The miles per gallon of an SUV is 21. This is not helping the U.S. debt, which is already too high.

Scientists at MIT have found a way to almost double the mpg just by using a different engine. This technology will turn the engine off when the car is stopped at a stop light and then restarts it without any wait. This technology could add only \$1,400 to the sticker price. It would be worth it because the car owner would save \$500 a year on gas.

Please support the mpg minimum for SUVs and light trucks. It might not help you now, but it will help the environment and our country. I wrote to Rep. George Miller about this.

Please write letters to your representatives in Congress and begin buying hybrids and other gas-efficient cars instead of SUVs.

Katie Sistek
El Cerrito

Katie is an eighth-grader at Windrush School.

Noisy BART

Since February, when I moved into my apartment near the BART tracks, I have been trying to persuade BART personnel to reduce the disturbing noise of the trains.

I filled out the comment card I got from the station agent and, over the months, I phoned the customer comment number and complained numerous times.

The staff members who took my calls were very pleasant and always said someone would look into the problem and call me back, but no one ever did. I felt discouraged and knew I was barking up the wrong tree.

Several days ago, I received an anonymous letter. The writer was a neighborhood resident concerned about the excessive noise from the BART trains. The writer met with BART head of maintenance Mike Brown. Brown said track maintenance is done as a result of complaints from the neighborhood. If not enough neighbors complain, no track maintenance will be done. Brown said people concerned about the excessive noise should call him at 510-464-6505.

I would like to thank the anonymous neighbor for giving me new hope, and I urge readers to phone Brown. Let's make a big noise and get them to quiet the trains.

Alice Setteducati
El Cerrito

Irked by diesel bus

In July, more than 80 upset Kensington neighbors signed a petition to remove the noisy 30-foot diesel bus AC Transit recently swapped for the former, environmentally friendly and quiet gas-powered commuter van.

Since that time, AC Transit has done nothing to address our concerns, despite hundreds of e-mails, phone calls, a town hall meeting and several presentations to the agency's board of directors. Per AC Transit's recent communication, nothing will be done until 2005, when another 30-foot diesel bus will replace the existing one.

We are upset for the following reasons:

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,
Richmond, CA 94806

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

■ Our streets are basically one-lane roads requiring traffic to pull to the side to allow opposing traffic to pass. This is dangerous when a 39,000-pound bus is between parked cars, which it does frequently on Trinity and Beloit avenues.

■ Diesel exhaust causes cancer and asthma. Since the bus passes my house 140 times a week, this is a major concern.

■ The noise from a diesel bus is equivalent to more than 32 automobiles. Exposure to noise may cause a rise in blood pressure and gastrointestinal changes, making people tense and angry. It also disturbs sleep.

■ Ridership is low. I am at the end of the Kensington loop and have counted an average of one rider per bus in the early morning. Many of the buses are empty.

■ Several water mains on Trinity Avenue have broken since the bus appeared.

■ There have been several accidents or near-accidents with the bus. My neighbor's truck mirror was broken by the bus.

■ AC Transit never asked the residents of Beloit Avenue if they approved of the bus going up their street. They rerouted the bus from Vassar Avenue without giving notice to the neighborhood.

ACT is telling us to just live with the noise, pollution and destruction — a handful of people to ride the bus. It doesn't make sense, economically or environmentally.

We have appealed to them to find more "neighborhood-friendly" bus routes. AC Transit policy, per their Web site. We do not want another 30-foot diesel bus.

We have asked that they drastically reduce the number of bus runs from five times a day to a few runs in the morning and evening, when there is sufficient ridership. Except for a few runs which we have up to seven rides, the buses are usually empty, which does not justify running a huge bus through a neighborhood that doesn't want or need it.

The neighborhood is very upset over the current bus. We demand the removal of a small, environmentally safe van in a reduction in service.

Marianne Betterly
Kensington

VIEWPOINT

Parks don't mean a thing if they ain't got that swing

By Rebecca Hazlewood
CORRESPONDENT

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it's the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside —

Till I look down on the garden green;
Down on the roof so brown —
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!
— Robert Louis Stevenson

Recently, on a walk past Castro Park, I noticed that the new playground equipment has no swings. While driving past Cerrito Vista Park, I noticed that the playground equipment there has no swings, either!

I e-mailed the City Council, "Something is really puzzling me. THERE ARE NO SWINGS."

Scott Hanin, city manager of El Cerrito responded: "Swings need a large fall zone, at both Cerrito Vista and Castro we were concerned about the fall zones and border space. At Cerrito Vista the fall zone was unacceptable and at Castro we would have had to move the swings to the middle of the playground to meet the fall zone clearance, thus eliminating some of the play opportunities available — the next

park that has funding is Arlington Park. Swings are currently located at Arlington and Tassajara As these playgrounds become renovated, city staff and the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council will need to look at the required fall zone when considering swings as a play experience."

I don't think Scott could have had much of a swing experience as a child to be able to so bureaucratically pigeonhole the swing experience.

Swings to me are a life experience. My sons were brought up on local swings from Memorial Park in Albany to Tassajara Park, at the north end of El Cerrito. I pushed my sons ever so gently on the baby swings at Memorial Park, as they chortled away with

delight; so they could do the swing muscle, if you will. If the occasion merited, a responsible adult was standing down the slide. Up above the big swing. Up above the ground, I would go. Ground view wasn't as pleasant as above poem. The upside of the above poem. The upside of the above poem. The upside of the above poem.

was: Adults get off the swing as a child is waiting. I was mentioning this about swings in El Cerrito being an endangered species due to liability considerations of a fellow parent: "Why is this ability be a question if it is there to supervise?"

Good question, I think.

Rebecca Hazlewood has been an El Cerrito resident for 20 years.

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

CHOS WIN IN UTAH: El Cerrito High's forensics team participated in the Alta Silver and Black National held at Alta High School in Lake City. The policy team of Tony Tran, plus Lin Douglas, debaters Jack Halperin and Gressel, represented El Cerrito in this competition. Coaches Tom and Nina Rocco were on hand to assist and judge at this tournament. Everyone ended up with a trophy. To top that off, Tony Tran received a first-place trophy, a major accomplishment.

ALBERTSONS CARDS: Albertsons Community Partner/Preferred Savings cards have helped El Cerrito High receive \$10,000 in the past two years. Now there's been a change in the way to use them.

Albertsons will no longer credit ECHS money if shoppers use only their Community Partner card; they must be scanned with the store's Preferred Savings card. The scan connects the Preferred Savings card to ECHS. Once this is done, just the Preferred Savings card can be scanned when you shop at Albertsons. Preferred Savings cards are available at the Albertsons customer service desk.

NEW FACE AT THE CORRAL: The Gaucha Corral announces that it has a new sports coordinator, Tessa Taruskin, a sophomore who loves sports and loves to write. She will be covering sports for the upcoming Winter issue.

— from the ECHS e-mail tree

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School
 PTA Officers: Call Norm Rossman at 510-525-0418, e-mail: norm@norm.com, phone 10-525-2018

Albany Middle School
 PTA Officers: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-525-0418, e-mail: dorothy@albanyptanet.com

Albany Elementary School
 PTA Officers: Call Mark Piven 510-525-0418, e-mail: piven@pacbell.net

Albany Elementary School
 PTA Officers: Call Helene Class at 510-525-0418, e-mail: h.class@att.net

day, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Ocean View Elementary School
 Scrip Orders: Call Laurie Amaro at 510-525-0476

AUSD Board of Education
 Jan. 6, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar
 Dec. 22-Jan. 2, winter break (no school)

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

EDUCATION NOTES

The next national test date for ACT Assessment is Feb. 7. Age-bound students should register by the Jan. 2 postmark deadline. Late registration postmark deadline is Jan. 16 (an additional fee is required for late registration). Students can register online at www.act.org or can get a registration packet from their high school guidance counselor and register by mail. Web site also has sample test questions and a link to a free financial aid calculator.

ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the United States. The fee is \$26. Colleges use ACT scores, along with a student's school grade-point average and other information to help determine admissions and the appropriate course placement for students.

■ ■ ■

The UC Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association awards between \$75,000 and \$100,000 a year to high school seniors and community college transfer

students who plan to attend UC Davis in the fall.

The Cal Aggie Alumni Association Scholarship, dating back to 1934, is one of the oldest scholarships in the University of California system and is completely alumni-supported. A local committee made up of UC Davis alumni will choose the Contra Costa County scholarship recipients early next spring.

Students need not be affiliated with a UC Davis alumnus to apply, and the scholarship is not based on financial need. Students must submit a one-page essay on the following topic: What quality do you possess that identifies you as a leader and how will you use that quality to enhance the campus environment? Additionally, students must submit a copy of their UC application. The scholarship application deadline is Feb. 2, 2004.

Students may apply online by visiting www.alumni.ucdavis.edu or request a scholarship application by calling the alumni association at 800-242-4723.

Small-town library bustling in Northwest

Quote of the week:
"And hark to the Echo's sound/After the cannon cease/And put your lips to the ground/And whisper 'The time is Peace.'"
 — A.M. Sullivan, 1830-1884, from "The Chronometer"



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
 At the Library

WHENEVER I travel, I visit local libraries. Most recently, I visited one in Dayton, Wash., a town of 2,715 that is the largest city in Columbia County. There was only one desk and one person helping people, so I approached her and told her that I am a librarian from California and then asked her if she does everything — checking out books and answering reference questions.

She smiled and said, yes, she is the director and she has one other employee, a library assistant and then a backup person. She is, she said, only the fourth library director this town library has had since the library's beginning in 1927. The first director stayed 29 years, the next seven, the next 26 years, and she's been there 14.

As I talked to her, I noticed the colorful displays of books and library information, including several contests. A dedicated volunteer does those, she

told me. I was at the library about half an hour and it was pleasure to see how busy and friendly this small library is.

My next stop was to the train depot, which came highly recommended as one of the highlights of the town. This old station is also the local history museum and so has extensive information about Dayton and the surrounding area. Joann Whitmore was our friendly guide and she knew an amazing amount about the history of Dayton. She guided us through the depot, explaining how it came to be where it is and how it was used.

We learned that the depot was built in 1881, and in 1899 was moved to its present site on roller logs pulled by horses. We saw the upstairs, where the stationmaster slept and ate. Two three-sided bay windows, one upstairs and one downstairs, provided the stationmaster with a view of the tracks — I loved standing at the desk and looking down the tracks.

There was also an old-fashioned pencil sharpener on the desk — it looked a lot like a potato peeler, with the pencil held in place as you turn the handle. It was slower and less efficient than an electric model — and I'd love to have one.

There was also an old-fashioned pencil sharpener on the desk — it looked a lot like a potato peeler, with the pencil held in place as you turn the handle. It was slower and less efficient than an electric model — and I'd love to have one.

livered — on time — to every one, except for two occasions: After a fire in the 1880s and in 1989 due to a power outage. Not a bad record — late once every hundred years!

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Claire and the book is Margaret Maron's "Last Lesson of Summer." Claire says this book is about "a young woman who travels to North Carolina to empty the family home prior to its sale and discovers that her grandmother's death may have been a murder." One word she would use to describe it is "entertaining" and she recommends it because "it was easy, pleasant reading."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library features poetry events in its First Thursdays and Second Wednesdays program. First Thursdays include an open mike and featured poet. The next First Thursday will meet Jan. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room, and features poet Ivan Arguelles.

Ivan Arguelles is the author of numerous poetry books and chapbooks, including "The Invention of Spain" and "Looking for Mary Lou," which won the 1989 William Carlos Williams award. His most recent works are "Tri Loka" and the novella "Orientalia." He is the co-founder and editor of Pantograph Press.

Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages, led by Alison Seevak. In January, this event is Jan. from 7 to 9 p.m., also in the Edith Stone Room. Both events are free

and ongoing. Light refreshments will be served.

The Albany Library, at 1247 Marin Ave., is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

■ ■ ■

The El Cerrito Library will hold registration for preschool storytimes Jan. 12-22.

Registration is required for the following programs: Babytime Lapsit for children up to 2 years on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. through Feb. 26; Toddler Lapsit for ages 2-3, Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. through Feb. 26 and Picture Book Time for ages 3-5, Tuesdays at 1 p.m. through Feb. 24. A parent must accompany the child for Babytime and Toddler Lapsit.

Also at El Cerrito: The library's book club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7

p.m. Copies of the current selection are available at the check-out desk. The club's next meeting will be held Jan. 27 to discuss "Daughter of Fortune," by Isabel Allende.

The library invites children grades 1-6 to read books and earn prizes by participating in the El Cerrito Library's "I Love to Read" Club this winter. To participate in the club, which is sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library, each child needs to pick up a reading record at the library, and use it to list 10 books he or she reads between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28. Reading records are then to be returned to the library any time during the month of February for display on the library's bulletin board. Each finisher will receive a paperback book and two Hershey's Kisses. You can learn the basics of the

Internet at the El Cerrito Library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

Call 510-526-7512 to sign up. The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

■ ■ ■

The Kensington Library holds Family Storytimes for all ages on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

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True date of Jesus' birth impossible to pinpoint

Local theologians and scientists give the story of Christmas close inspection

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

When was Jesus really born? The date we observe was chosen around the sixth century by an ancient theologian and astronomer named Dionysius Exiguus. But today's theologians and astronomers think he was off by a few years.

"They didn't have birth certificates in Jesus' day," says William Countryman, professor of Biblical studies at the Church Divinity School, part of the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley. "And the people who knew him as an adult wouldn't have had access to that information anyway. Besides, they wouldn't have cared; his birth was less important to them than his death and resurrection."

Only two of the four Gospels talk about Jesus' birth: Matthew and Luke. And though they were probably written within a few years of each other, they differ in some important details.

"Matthew says Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, and we know from Roman records that Herod died in 4 B.C.," says Countryman. "So if Matthew was right, Jesus was at least 4 years old in what we call the year zero."

"On the other hand, Luke says Jesus was born while the Roman consul Quirinus was governor of Syria, and we know Quirinus wasn't governor until 6 A.D. That's a difference of 10 years."

The scientific evidence is also mixed. "Astronomers have long wondered whether the Star of Bethlehem could provide a clue," says Ryan Diduck, head astronomer at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland. "Johannes Kepler thought it was a supernova. But that's discounted nowadays because the Chinese and Japanese kept very good records, and there's no mention of one."

Could it have been a comet? "Not likely. Comets were universally seen as bad omens, and it's unlikely the Gospel writers would use a comet to herald the birth of a king or savior."

That leaves the third possibility: a planetary conjunction. "A couple stand out," says Diduck. "On June 17, 2 B.C., there was a triple conjunction of Jupiter, Venus and the star Regulus. Jupiter and Venus are the two brightest planets in the sky. Their combined light, plus that of Regulus, must have made quite an impression."



JEAN-FRANCOIS RACINE, a professor at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, has given his views on the story of the Christmas Star.

"Another possibility is a conjunction in 7 B.C. between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces, the fish. And we all know that the fish became a symbol of Christianity at about the time the Gospels were written."

In short, a definitive answer is more elusive than ever.

"All we can say for sure is that we don't know, because our two sources don't agree," says Countryman. "That's upsetting for some people, but not for me because I never expected that kind of detail out of Scripture in the first place."

His colleague at GTU, Jean-Francois Racine, assistant professor at the Jesuit School of Theology, agrees.

"We can only guess because the authors aren't around to say, 'You got it right,'" he says. "But I think the more significant question is 'What's the meaning of these stories?'"

"Look at the differences. In Matthew, Joseph is the center of the story; there's almost no mention of Mary. In Luke, Mary is the star; she's the one who is visited by the angel. In Matthew, that's Joseph's prerogative."

"Matthew describes the Magi following the Christmas star, as well as the slaughter of the innocents. Luke has none of that. He has the shepherds, which appear nowhere in Matthew, visiting Jesus in a manger. In Matthew, you get the impression that Jesus was born in a house."

Racine and Countryman say the difference is due to the fact that Matthew and Luke had different agendas.

"Matthew presents Jesus as

the Messiah expected by the Jews," Racine says. "They already had the job description in Isaiah, and Matthew is saying, 'Look at your job description; Jesus fits in every detail.' So Jesus is presented as a Moses-type person who is the best interpreter of the Jewish law you could ever get."

"Luke, on the other hand, emphasizes Jesus' universality. Having the shepherds in the forefront tells us much. The best word to describe shepherds in the first century A.D. is 'bums.' They were the marginal, the dispossessed, the ones who couldn't get jobs doing anything else. Luke reveals in the irony that the first people to get the big news aren't big shots like the Magi in Matthew; it's women and shepherds, the bottom of the social ladder."

Countryman agrees. "This was deliberate on Luke's part. He

wanted to make the point that Jesus represents an opening up of the social conventions. It was a protest against the Church Lady, if you will — people who are terribly religious and self-satisfied and lord it over everybody."

So do these discrepancies between the Gospels mean they're wrong?

"Not at all," says Racine. "None of them is false. But none of them has the whole picture either. Jesus is someone difficult to encompass totally. I mean, who knows you totally? If I were to ask your mother, I'd get one picture. If I were to ask your buddies at a sports bar, I'd get a different one. And so on. And if that's true for us, how much more true must that be of Jesus?"

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cc-times.com.

In 'Twelve Days,' a cry for freedom

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" might be just a children's ditty today, but 400 years ago it had a much more serious meaning.

"It was a secret code, sending hidden messages of hope to a downtrodden people," says Brother John Samaha, a Marian monk and retired high school teacher in the Diocese of Oakland (which encompasses all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties).

The song was composed in the late 16th century, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

"She has a great image today, but the truth is she was pretty awful to Catholics," says Samaha. "They were forced to practice their religion in secret, on pain of death. Every large Catholic home in England had a 'priest hole,' where they hid priests from the Queen's soldiers. It was about the size of the hole Saddam Hussein was found in last weekend."

Most alarming of all, Catholics were forbidden to teach the faith to their children, endangering the religion's long-term survival.

"So they composed 'The Twelve Days of Christmas,'" says Samaha. "The disguised meaning of the song's gifts was actually a mini-catechism to help children remember the basic lessons of their faith. For instance, the 'true love' isn't a human boyfriend, it's God Himself."

And, says Samaha, each present represents one of the tenets of the faith. To wit:

■ The partridge in a pear tree: Jesus Christ, who was often symbolically represented in Medieval times as a mother partridge who feigns injury to deter predators

from her helpless chicks

■ Two turtle doves and New Testament

■ Three French hens hope and charity

■ Four calling birds Gospels.

■ Five Golden rings five books of the Old Testament

■ Six geese a-laying six days of creation

■ Seven swans a-swimming the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

■ Eight maids a-milking the eight Beatitudes of Jesus on the Mount

■ Nine ladies dancing nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

■ Ten lords a-leaping Ten Commandments

■ Eleven pipers piping faithful apostles

■ Twelve drummers drumming the 12 articles of the Apostles' Creed

"This kind of thing happened more than once in history," says Samaha. "American slaves did similar before the Civil War; they sang spirituals to help them escape, when they were oppressed, they turn to help them find freedom."

Reach Martin Snapp at 262-2787 or msnapp@cc-times.com.

For a Catholic Voice, a special publication of the Diocese of Oakland, where some material first appeared.

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SAT, DEC 20 & SUN, DEC 21: Just about everybody's favorite musical comedy, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor. Great tunes, incredible dancing and a hilarious story about the dawn of talking pictures in Hollywood! Simply the best! SAT, DEC 20 at 7:00 & 9:15; SUN, DEC 21 at 5:00 only!

FRI, DEC 26 & SUN, DEC 28: Elvis Presley and Ann Margaret star in VIVA LAS VEGAS, certainly one of "the King's" all-time best movies! He plays a hunky racecar driver and she's a sultry Vegas showgirl, and when these two get together—watch out! FRI, DEC 26 at 7:00 & 9:00; SUN, DEC 28 at 7:15 only!

SAT, DEC 27 & SUN, DEC 28: The exquisitely atmospheric 1955 French gangster classic, BOB THE GAMBLER, is a favorite of film buffs the world over! Directed by the legendary Jean-Pierre Melville, this black & white jewel will leave you speechless. SAT, DEC 27 at 7:00 & 9:15; SUN, DEC 28 at 5:00 only!

FRI, JAN 2 & SUN, JAN 4: WAR OF THE WORLDS. FRI, JAN 2 at 7:00 & 9:00; SUN, JAN 4 at 7:15 only!

SAT, JAN 3 & SUN, JAN 4: THE WIZARD OF OZ. SAT, JAN 3 at 7:00 & 9:15; SUN, JAN 4 at 5:00 only!

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Dress warmly, the weather is part of the experience. The "Interim" Solar Calendar at the Park is a perfect place for observing changes in the Sun's position along the horizon throughout the year. The gathering includes: what is the winter solstice?; sharing varying cultural beliefs on the significance of the solstice; and an update on the proposed memorial for agricultural labor leader Cesar Chavez. Directions to Chavez Park: Drive past DoubleTree Inn (Berkeley Marina) and continue to end of road. Park. From portable bath-rooms, follow signs to site (5-minute walk to mound in northwest section of park). For more information, call 510-845-0657, e-mail vario@earthlink.net or visit the Web site at www.solarcalendar.org

The El Cerrito Historical Society will exhibit items from its collections in the El Cerrito Library's exhibit case through the month of December. Items include pottery from TepCo, as well as old milk bottles from the city's early dairies. Location: 6510 Stockton Ave.

The Berkeley Farmers' Market 12th annual Holiday Crafts Fair (An Ecology Center Benefit), takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday Dec. 20 at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park (next to the Berkeley Farmers' Market). Local craftspeople selling a variety of hand-crafted gifts jewelry, fabric arts, leather, ceramics, hats, dolls, fine art, photos, soaps and herbal portions, and others. Live music. One block from downtown Berkeley BART, parking, wheelchair accessible. For More Information, call 510-548-3333 or visit the Web site at www.ecologycenter.org.

The Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., presents the exhibit "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum" through April 25. Hours: Open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Jewish and federal holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-549-6950.

Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 937 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children.

This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice. Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

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"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Exhibits

ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., continues its exhibit "Peace on Earth" through Dec. 24. The exhibition features artful treasures including jewelry, glass, ornaments, cards, ceramics, wood and fine art. Gallery hours: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 510-843-2527 or visit the Web site at www.accigallery.com.

Global Exchange and Mexico Solidarity Network sponsor a photography exhibit "En la Orilla de la Luz-At the Edge of Light. Photographs from Chiapas, Mexico, 1995-2001," by Julia Meier-Wiedenbach through Jan. 6, at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. For more information, call 415-255-7296 ext. 229 or 415-495-6334.

The exhibit Early Women of Berkeley (1876-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, cele-

See CALENDAR, Page A11



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Calendar
PAGE A7
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■ **Friday Night Folk Dancing:** 8 p.m. - 11 p.m., no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgana, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542

■ **Family Folkdancing** takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ **Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marangio at 528-7858

Health

■ **YWCA Health and Community Education:** drop in classes in **dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts** and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10

Learning

■ The Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant

Ave, a non-profit private social club, offers a **weekly yoga class** for seniors from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. The class taught by Rosie Linsky, who at age 72, has practiced yoga for over 40 years. Open to non-members for \$8 a class. For more information, call Karen Ray, at 848-7800.

■ **Berkeley Adult School offers ceramics classes** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free, materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn at 525-5497

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** in Berkeley offers classes in exercise, hand-built ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing and tap dancing. There are speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are always welcome. Lunch and friendly conversation are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley, Call 845-6830 for time and schedules.

■ **Beginning Internet Workshops** take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the internet mouse skills, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

■ **The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave.,** offers free, ongoing **chess instruction** Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome

and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Folkdance classes,** Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library.) Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply). \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts,** 2640 College Ave., offers family-friendly program classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into everyday lives. Details: 845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org

■ **The Berkeley Adult School** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be used to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and introductory and advanced computer classes. Details: 644-6130

■ **Interview Clinics** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time

■ **Berkeley Community Media, Channel 25,** offers affordable classes in **video production and editing** to Berkeley

residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage

■ **Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave.,** offers **dance classes** ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarjali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054 n Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6830

■ **Dance and fitness classes** open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370

■ **Let's Swing and Jitterbug;** 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate, four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley, Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

Lecture/workshop

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Berkeley Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don. 510-525-3565 or www.berkeleycameraclub.org

■ **Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung** classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation \$65 268-4995

■ **The YWCA** offers free orientations of its **Turning Point Career Center.** The orientations outline resources available the center's workshops and other offerings. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way 848-6370

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See CALENDAR, Page A12

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Calendar

FROM PAGE 11

'98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite 111, San Pablo 94603-0840 or www.ccoee.k12.ca.us/rop

Meetings/Lectures

■ **Powerhounds**, a ski, snowboard and social club meet the second Tuesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oakland Hilton, Amelia restaurant, 1 Hegenberger Rd., and fourth Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. 7 to 9 p.m. at Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, Call 510-769-7669 or visit the Web site at www.powerhounds.com

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips, for more information call Don at 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameraclub.org

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** meet on Tuesday mornings at 2727 College Ave Sharon Stallfleet will speak about her ministry to four local nursing homes at 11 a.m. Dec. 16. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call 510-645-6830

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All these events are free and on-going. Light refreshments will be served. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 20 for more information

■ **Storytelling for Adults**, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benevue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session

■ **The El Cerrito Toastmasters** offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information contact Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com

■ **Kol Hadash**, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Mann Ave. 428-1492

Miscellany

■ **Berkeley Youth Orchestra**, 70 young musicians from fifth through tenth grade, is holding mid-year auditions for its 2003-04 season. Auditions will be held by appointment, the week of Jan 5. To schedule an audition or to find out more about the orchestra: visit the Web site at www.byoweb.org or write to Berkeley Youth Orchestra, P.O. box 1294, Berkeley CA, 94701 or call Marion Atherton, Berkeley Youth Orchestra manager at 510-663-3296, or e-mail manager@byoweb.org

■ **The LoIs Club Bay Area Chapter** will end a fabulous year with a gala luncheon on Dec. 30. The noon gathering

will be at Paradiso Restaurant in San Leandro. All individuals with the first name of Lois and guests are welcome. Call Lois Wahl, 428-2557, in Oakland, or Lois Trill, 276-2422, in San Leandro for reservations or Club information

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors' over 50. Call 845-6830 for more information

■ **The Center for Independent Living** announces its newly created **Asian Outreach Program** to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and English, program staff are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable of community and government service available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIL at 510-763-9999

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details

■ **Improve your speaking skills** by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster** meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are

doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRita, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters** Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hilegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969

■ **Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters**. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671

■ **Toastmasters**: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 863-6708 for more information

■ **The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hilegass. Details: 704-1822

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. 528-1235

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10-1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750

■ **Higher Alignment**: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 415-461-5337; \$20

■ **Alta Bates Support Groups** - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month, 1 - 2:30 p.m. 204-4503. Call for additional special events

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, a 12-step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hos-

pital, 901 Nevada Ave., third floor. For further information call 273-9292

■ **TOPS**: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Pounds Off Seminars meets at 980 Shattuck Ave. 233-2948 or Karen

■ **Nigerian-born** Rasaki Aladekun will introduce a Lawrence Hall of Science talking drum. The event is a central percussion

many rhythmic styles, music, costume and dance. Native land. Admission: \$6.50 for youth 5-18; \$4.50 for adults; \$4.50 for more information visit the Web site at www.science.org

■ **The UC Berkeley** East Bay Center for the Study of the Mind offers a free class on the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. Call to register. Details: 845-0292

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HENRY PARSONS rids cups of hot water he used to warm them up while brewing tea for the members during a tea-drinking club meeting at Celadon tea house.

Tea

FROM PAGE A1

teas are brought in, it doesn't shock the flavor of the tea, so to speak," he explained.

He poured the tea into a larger cup and then poured that into the tea pot. The liquid, officially brewed after waiting about a minute, was then poured into a decanter. Finally, it was poured into tiny cups for tasting.

The nuances of the flavor are revealed as the tea is brewed a second and third time.

Yu said members have taken

field trips to other tea shops to learn about the flavor, presentation and ceremonial aspects of tea and largely meet on their own with little adult interference.

"They're tea connoisseurs," Yu said. "The kids are interested. They all have a good ability to taste and distinguish tea, and are able to brew it."

Several parents sat and talked to Yu while youngsters tasted their tea.

"It's almost like a science club, they're mixing up their potions here," parent David Zaidman said. "I didn't know there was so much to teach."

Yu said brewing tea is some-

thing of an art, and it's important to do it correctly to maximize its flavor. The children were brewing the tea in the Taiwanese and Chinese methods.

"Those kids are pretty adept at making tea the right way, they have an appreciation for what the final product is supposed to taste like," she said.

The young connoisseurs agreed that their most memorable experience was drinking the pu'er tea. That's a moldy tea, aged for decades and costing as much as \$10,000 a pound, Henry

said.

He said it's almost like drinking mud — it's very thick and very dark, but also delicious. He's been a fan since he was 8 years old.

"That's a very good example of a tea that requires an acquired taste," he said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Shaping

FROM PAGE 1

if the planning efforts continue without it.

"If we're not there participating, giving our input as we have been in this process, that's when we get lost in this process," Moore said.

The planning principles say nothing specifically about how El Cerrito could be affected, though they stress that individual cities can withdraw at any time.

"I think this is a valuable blueprint, but it's not a mandatory blueprint," said Councilman Mark Friedman.

Community development director Jill Keimach said Shaping Our Future is in line with El Cerrito's general plan, which encourages revitalization of San Pablo Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, and development around the city's two BART sta-

HOW THE VOTED

Here is how the Council voted on Future plan:

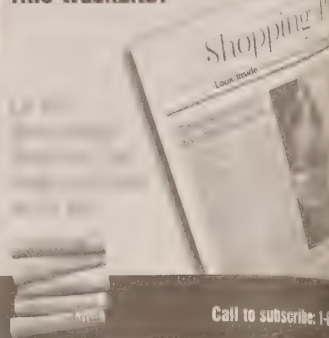
YES: Letitia Moore, Janet Abelson, Mark Friedman
NO: None

tions.

And if anything with economic development, Keimach encourages developing areas, which encourages development in city core areas (County), which does not.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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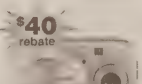
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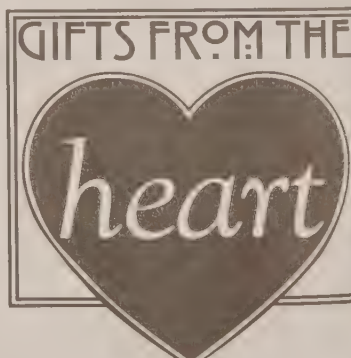
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NORTH SHATTUCK ASSOCIATION BERKELEY

Regional park programs offer alternatives to holiday frenzy

NATURALISTS AT the Environmental Education Center of Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley will host a variety of holiday-themed activities. The program will run from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 26, departing the research of the wren, the

the walk, Alan will celebrate with traditional Christmas music and regalia. Registration is required and there's a \$5 fee for non-district residents to cover costs of refreshments. To register or obtain information, phone the EEC at 510-525-2233.

On Saturday, Dec. 27, the naturalists will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a chance to see the EEC exhibits, meet animals, and trade stories with the staff.

On Sunday, Dec. 28, the naturalists will conduct two holiday-themed programs at the EEC. The first is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. exploring genetics by creating a family tree for the

characters Harry and Hermione. Participants can learn some of their own traits as well. Then from 1 to 4 p.m. the "science of beans" will explore variations of taste and texture among other things. Programs are free of charge.



PARK IT
Ned MacKay

charge.

Tea lovers will enjoy Alan's New Year's Eve Tea Tasting, from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Teas, treats and the history of the beverage will all be on the program. Registration is required for this one, and there's a \$10 fee (\$12 for non-district residents). Phone 510-525-2233.

Alan winds up the year with his annual New Year's Eve hike from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. It's an exploration of New Year's customs and traditions from around the world, with a poetry contest as this year's added attraction. Bring flashlights and dress warmly. There's no fee, phone 510-525-2233 for more information.

The EEC is located at the north end of Central Park Drive at Tilden. Drive into the park on Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard in Berkeley. At the bottom of the hill, turn left, park at the end of the road, and walk a short distance to the EEC.

Elsewhere in the regional parks, Naturalist Gail Broesder will lead two explorations of Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve on Sunday, Dec. 28.

The first is from 7 to 10 a.m. to watch the sun rise, explore the park, and check out the mazes that have been created there. Participants are asked to

Tilden Park naturalist Alan Kaplan winds up the year with his free annual New Year's Eve hike, a look at New Year's customs and traditions from around the world, with a poetry contest as this year's added attraction.

bring a breakfast snack to share. If it rains, the hike is cancelled.

Then from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Gail will present a short program about Sibley, discussing its natural and cultural history. Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve is located on Skyline Boulevard in Oakland, a short distance south of the intersection with Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Both programs are free of charge, and no reservations are required. For more information, phone 510-521-6887.

Ned MacKay, retired public information supervisor for the East Bay Regional Park District, writes a weekly column about East Bay parks. If you have a question or comment for

Depending on the kindness of strangers

ONE OF my favorite travel writers is Don George. The man loves to wander. Sometime ago, he wandered his way into a sinister neighborhood in Cairo. After looking hither and yon, he declared himself officially lost. To add to matters, a cluster of men with menacing looks took notice of him. Now if you sport the muscles of Arnold Schwarzenegger, the moves of Jackie Chan and the attitude of Indiana Jones, being lost like this is a skip through the dew. However, Don is a self-described "twedy professor" type. He knew trouble loomed. Suddenly, a boy approached him. The lad extended his hand. Don took it and followed the youngster through a maze of alleyways until they finally emerged in a public square. Before he could thank his rescuer, the boy had melted into the crowd.

Don alludes to this adventure in the introduction of a book he just edited titled "The Kindness of Strangers" (Lonely Planet Publications \$14.99). As the company's Global Travel Editor, he was able to convince the likes of Jan Morris, Simon Winchester, Dave Eggers and other literati into relating their own tales of "fate and fortune on the road." They share the pages with new writers selected from among those who took advantage of an invitation on the Lonely Planet web site to submit their own stories.

Don grinned like a Cheshire Cat when I asked him how on earth he managed to secure a preface by the Dalai Lama. But secure it he did and it is in this preface that the world famous



MIKE CLEARY
The Food and Travel Enthusiast

King of Kindness expounds on the idea that our "very survival, even today, depends upon the acts and kindness of so many people." He believes our own happiness is inextricably bound up with the happiness of others. I could not agree more. It is the Dalai Lama's thought that the simple action of being kind to one another contributes greatly to creating a more peaceful, harmonious and friendly world.

Naturally, the book gets you thinking of your own "road" experiences. I thought back to a foolish, youthful misadventure that could have proven disastrous if not for the generosity and kindness of strangers. Even small demonstrations of kindness contribute to a trip's success. While in Europe this past October, Mary Ann and I would have missed trains, been late for a lunch in Nice and lost a friend in a museum had it not been for the help of others.

A day or two after finishing Don's book, Mary Ann showed me an e-mail we received from a friend. It contained instructions for dealing with life in the new millennium from guess who? No, not Dr. Phil. The Dalai Lama was back. There are nineteen recommendations. I like the last one which is to approach love and cooking with reckless abandon. But it

was number sixteen that resonated. His advice is to once a year go some place you've never been before.

Right away Columbus, Ohio, popped into my head. Just kidding. I want to see what kind of reaction that will get from my wife when she reads this. Actually, there are a number of places that are up for consideration in 2004. The good news is many are close to home.

For example, Morro Bay and Avila Beach. We've driven past them and through them, but that doesn't qualify. Carrie Head of the San Luis Obispo County Visitors and Convention Bureau (www.SanLuisObispoCounty.com) gave me a heads up (No pun intended.) on the revival of Avila Beach after a serious oil spill of four years closed it down. The beach is rebuilt, new stores and restaurants are open and the welcome mat is out.

Carrie also sent word of an event in Morro Bay over the Martin Luther King weekend in January. It's the annual Morro Bay Bird Festival. While the Clearys aren't card-carrying birders, we are enthusiasts all the same. This might be an excellent time to check out the area and the 200 species of birds that call it home. Birders come from all over the world and the county plans a number of workshops, trips and other events. This is a crowd the Dalai Lama is sure to love. Cheers.

Mike Cleary and his wife Mary Ann co-host "Food and Travel Radio" at 6 p.m. Sundays on KABL 960 AM. Readers can e-mail Mike at mc@foodandtravelradio.com.

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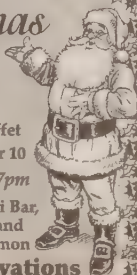
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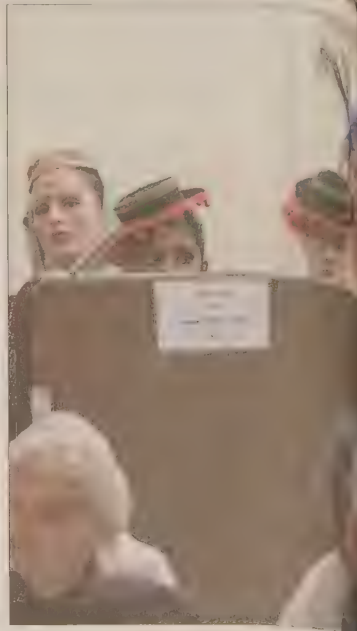
Holiday Food Drive

Drop off your non-perishable food items in our snowman's tummy located in the plaza, across from Barnes & Noble. All donations benefit the Alameda County Community Food Bank.



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HOLIDAY SHOW

DANCERS FROM the El Cerrito Ballet Center entertained at the Open House Senior Center in El Cerrito on Tuesday with "The Nutcracker." The cast, under the direction of Barbara Gabriel, numbered dancers ages 5 to 50.

Trees

FROM PAGE A1

The Friends of El Cerrito Trees group favors having no ordinance at all or — if the city insists on having one — a Berkeley-style ordinance the group says balances the rights of those with trees and those with views.

Davis said the Berkeley ordi-

nance favors trees; Thrupp said the Tiburon ordinance gives more rights to those who have views.

The council didn't officially vote on the make-up of the commission, but agreed to defer the issue to the council's board and commission subcommittee for further consideration, said City Manager Scott Hanin.

As a result of the discussion,

councilmembers suggested developing a code of conduct for all board and commission members, a revised application form to include disclosure information on potential conflicts and to review the issue with applicants as they come up for reappointment.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Mail

FROM PAGE A1

"I think that's the worrisome thing, that regardless of technology, people are still waiting for bills and checks and letters," she added. "Again, I don't know if other people try to complain, but it doesn't get us anywhere at all."

Resident Donna Bodine agreed the mail is "kind of like a

joke in the neighborhood" and she's noticed it's gotten worse in the last three years. Several times a month, she gets the mail intended for another address. That could be next door or several blocks away.

"So we either have to put it in

the (mail) box or deliver it to the house ourselves to make sure it gets there," said Bodine, an environmental consultant with a home office.

"Improvements certainly would be nice," she added. "It is of great concern to us."

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Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 19, 2003

Section B

Gift suggestions to brighten any homeowner's holiday spirit

Call Number 304 in a separate section in real estate experiences in real estate (December 1999)

the season to make gift suggestions in print are lists of published books and commodities, garden equipment, gadgets, every taste and interest. To suggest gifts for homeowners, especially those who recently moved into their first house, but also for those who own or not, who care about the quality of their lives.

Many people do not know about a terrific product, painter's blue masking tape, costing about \$8 a roll. For anyone who plans to paint even one room, this tape is a tremendous boon. It goes on smoothly and, more importantly, removes easily and completely, leaving no sticky residue.

And if latex paint is spilled or splattered on the wood floors or carpets, a great product called "Goof Off" is invaluable for removing it. Available at any hardware or paint store, no home should be without it. It will even dissolve, years after having been dripped, paint from wood floors without harming the finish on the floors.

For the more ambitious, or for those who took on a fixer-upper and now expect to fix it, a level and a square, a nail puller and a wrecking bar, crescent wrench and all sorts of power tools may be put to good use. It's probably a good idea to ask what plans the homeowner has.

One will reel off a long list of planned accomplishments, while another who perhaps doesn't intend to do anything, may simply reply with a blank look. Even for these people, ladders are good. Sturdy things on which to climb make excellent gifts: a kitchen stool-type ladder, a six-foot aluminum ladder (if only for changing light bulbs), a taller one for reaching the rain gutters.

Anyone who has ever been through a physical inspection prior to buying a house knows the myriad uses for caulk which are mentioned again and again by house inspectors.

"Keep water away," advise the inspectors. "Caulk siding and stucco cracks, tubs and showers; caulk around windows." Caulking is a talent every homeowner would do well to develop.

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TARPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

Most people who have a fire place want to use it, so firewood and/or a firewood rack for storing the wood will be welcome. I once had a cord of oak delivered to clients and, although they had to stack it themselves, they were thrilled. It lasted them through the entire winter. A cord of hardwood costs around \$300, including delivery.

For the grounds, certainly a hose is needed. (Unfortunately, I've found that it doesn't seem to matter what price you pay for a hose; even the \$30 ones kink so you might as well buy the \$20 hose.) I love my watering wand for watering pots on my patio. The type with an on/off switch is best.

A good shovel or fork costs around \$50, expensive to most new homeowners or renters. Electric hedge clippers are a possibility, also well-made hand pruners, or a gift certificate for plants from a nursery.

One of my most beloved garden implements is a small bamboo rake. The rake tines are perhaps 12 inches across, the ideal size for raking between plants and along narrow paths. Hida Tool on San Pablo in Berkeley carries the little rakes as well as all sorts of hand tools for the garden.

The list goes on and on: Outdoor thermometer, doormat, low voltage lamps to light a path.

Many people will appreciate a visit from a locksmith to change all the locks in the house and key them to a single key. Or you might hire

Real Estate Spotlight:

Beautiful Tuscan-style home in Oakland



SET MAJESTICALLY IN THE MONTCLAIR HILLS OFF BROADWAY TERRACE, this panoramic view property at 123 Capricorn Ave. in Oakland is the perfect blend of classic architectural design, open space and superb craftsmanship. It has beautiful Mt. Tam and Mt. Diablo views and an ideal location.

This dramatic Tuscan-inspired custom residence has been artfully created with many beautiful features, and captures the ambience of a gracious setting inside and out. Great for casual everyday living and elegant entertaining. Gourmet kitchen is top-of-the-line with stainless steel appliances. The dining room features a two-way fireplace. Beautiful den/fourth bedroom with soaring ceilings highlights the home. Hardwood floors and slate tiles grace the main level. Elegant master suite has a fireplace, and handsome maple built-ins are found throughout the home. Close to freeway, shopping and BART.

Price: \$1,090,000.

Listing agent: Damien O'Rourke, Prudential California Realty, Orinda Office, 925-254-0440.

someone to clean the gutters or the chimney.

If the sky is the limit, how about a large appliance? Perhaps an energy efficient refrigerator, a clothes washer or dryer, or a new, quality dishwasher that operates almost silently. Other ideas include a new fence, a fully installed automatic garage door opener, or an electrician's time to bring new electrical service (perhaps more convenience outlets, too) to the house.

Earthquake retrofit often costs \$5,000, sometimes more. In Berke-

ley, part of the city transfer tax is available, often to the buyer of the house, for retrofit expense, but it is seldom enough to cover the entire job. Making up the deficit would be a welcome gift. Probably they'd get a discount on their homeowner's insurance, too.

There are many gardening, home decorating and home remodel magazines. Subscriptions usually cost \$20 to \$30 a year. "Old House Journal" is a good one for remodelers; "Home" is one of my favorites for interior ideas; "Fine

Gardening" and "Garden Design" are both excellent.

If none of these suggestions seems right, here's a gift that will work for everyone on your list: a credit on their gas and electric bill. Arrange to send \$50 or \$100, or whatever, to Pacific Gas & Electric, and when that next bill comes in January, the recipient will love you to pieces.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoandtaltbert.com.

Joy, Peace, Harmony.

*If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.*

*If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.*

*If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.*

*When there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.*

- Chinese Proverb



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No season challenges Americans in as many ways as does winter. With shorter days and colder nights, our instincts tell us to retreat to our homes. It is no wonder most of us feel cooped up, cold and cranky during the winter.

Like a plant, we wilt without enough sunlight.

"One of the reasons people feel sluggish during the winter is because they don't get enough sunlight," said Mark Roush, an architect and lighting designer with Philips Lighting Company. "With shorter days, many feel they never see the sun, and that can be very depressing. Tricking our bodies into feeling we have sunlight is a surefire way to boost spirits in the winter."

In prepping for winter, it is possible to "winterize with light," according to Roush.

Home Depot design specialist Karen Thompson agrees. "Begin with a new light bulb here or new fixture there to open up a room," suggests Thompson.

Additional tips to help lighten up the home include:

Bring an artificial sky in your kitchen using indirect light sources. For a wonderful, warm effect, install fluorescent bulbs above kitchen cabinets to bounce light off the ceiling. This creates an artificial sky spreading light evenly throughout the kitchen and making it feel more like summer.

Keep the dark out and light in with brightly colored drapes. Light escapes into the night through an uncovered window. By installing bright drapes, you trap the light in your room, making it "warmer." The bright colors lift your mood as well, a deceptively easy fix.

Add a dramatic visual effect in the living room by up-lighting plants. For about \$20, use a Philips Halogená spotlight and a canned lighting fixture to shine light up through the plants' leaves. This creates dynamic shadows along the walls and a pocket of light to brighten up the room.

Replace incandescent bulbs with halogen bulbs. Replacing yellowish incandescent bulbs with

illumination plays a major role in setting the tone of a space, enhancing its function and making you feel comfortable.

sparkling white halogen bulbs gives any room that added "oomph" to make every day feel more summery. Start by changing the bulbs in your table lamps.

Wake up feeling refreshed in the morning with lamps set on timers. Ever wonder why you feel more awake on summer mornings? Sunlight helps our brains produce serotonin, a chemical that physically makes us stay awake. Hence, darker winter mornings make it much more difficult to wake up and get going.

Wake up easier by setting your bedside lamp on an automatic timer to turn on five minutes prior to your alarm.

Create more spacious environments with color and light. Installing halogen downlights away from your wall splashes light upon it, accenting the wall's natural color and making the room appear to be larger. This effect is called "wall-washing."

Leave your lights on more often with a compact fluorescent bulb. During the winter your lights are on 2-3 more hours than during the rest of the year, and a standard light bulb only lasts about three months when used an average of four hours a day. The Philips Marathon line of compact fluorescent bulbs will last for up to seven years and save up to 75 percent in energy usage, so you can leave them on without worrying about changing them during the winter or sky-rocketing bills.

It's called mood lighting for a reason. Illumination plays a major role in setting the tone of a space, enhancing its function and making you feel comfortable.

Lighting falls into three categories: ambient, task and accent lighting. Well-lit rooms will feature a combination of the three, allow-



HOME DEPOT

FROM ANTIQUE-LOOK chandeliers to modern units with colored glass shades, there are pendants for every décor style.

ing people to conduct their activities with ease, minus any eye squinting or strain.

Ambient lighting illuminates the whole room with unfocused

are the most common source of ambient light in homes, said Thompson. They are available in a wide range of styles, such as track lighting systems, utilitarian

Wall-mounted fixtures usually provide ambient lighting, although they can also work as accent lighting in hallways, bedrooms, entries and dining rooms. In bathrooms, the classic over-the-vanity light provides task lighting.

light that bounces off the walls and ceiling. It should provide enough light so that no one trips over furniture, but not be so bright that it's hard to relax. Dimmer switches allow you to adjust the light to suit your needs.

"Accent lighting is decorative in nature, often highlighting architectural details in a room, or a work of art, and can be placed anywhere in a room," said Karen Thompson, a design specialist with Home Depot. "Track lighting systems can be directed downward to spotlight a room feature, while a sconce or torchiere can throw light upward to the ceiling."

Recessed fixtures are set into the ceiling to illuminate without visually intruding into a space, she said. These multi-taskers function as ambient, task or accent lighting, depending on where they are installed.

As ambient lighting, they allow other fixtures, such as a chandelier, to grab the décor spotlight. They also can be installed above food preparation spaces in the kitchen as task lighting, or over a display nook, for accent lighting. Flush-mounted ceiling fixtures

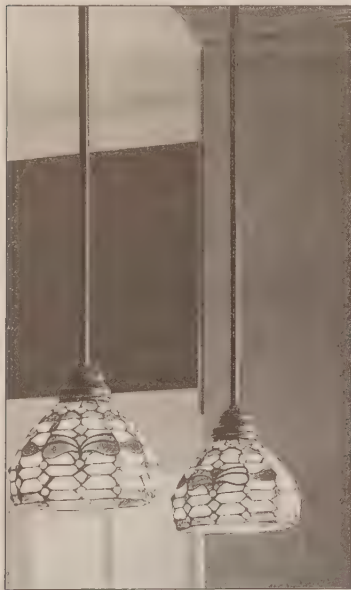
fluorescent units, simple globes and even ceiling fans with coordinating light kits which feature the added benefit of circulating air in a room.

Pendants hang from the ceiling, providing ambient or task lighting. From antique-look chandeliers to modern units with colored glass shades, there are pendants for every décor style.

They are best suited to high-ceilinged entryways and halls, or set above spaces where people are seated, like dining tables or kitchen breakfast bars and islands.

Wall-mounted fixtures usually provide ambient lighting, although they can also work as accent lighting in hallways, bedrooms, entries and dining rooms. In bathrooms, the classic over-the-vanity light provides task lighting.

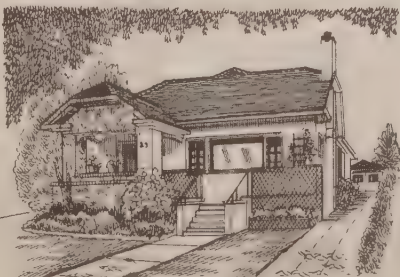
Portable lighting is the easiest to change, said Thompson. Examples include table, buffet, floor lamps and torchieres. Lamps provide soft, ambient light and, more commonly, task lighting where it is needed, like a reading lamp beside a favorite armchair.



PENDANTS are best suited to high-ceilinged entryways and halls, or set above spaces where people are seated, like dining tables or kitchen breakfast bars and islands.



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Real estate Q&A

BY TOM HAMILTON
CORRESPONDENT

Q. I purchased a wooded lot in an upscale subdivision last year. Without my knowledge or permission, the developers recently removed trees from the center of my lot (approximately where the house would go).

Apparently, the developers contracted with a timber company to cut the center out of every unsold lot in the subdivision. Supposedly they asked everyone who owned a lot if they would like their trees removed "for free" as a courtesy. The developers pocketed the proceeds of cutting the trees.

I was never contacted. Ninety-five 15-year-old pines were removed from my lot without my permission. I was outraged! Not only did I not ask my permission, but after the fact no one contacted me about the supposed "mistake." I was left to discover it on my own.

I made the developers a very reasonable settlement offer of \$1,900 to cover the costs of removing the stumps and cleaning up the mess. In addition, I feel that I have rights to damages since I no longer have the choice of which trees will be kept. Mature pines cannot be replaced and have substantial value in a residential neighborhood beyond their market value for the wood itself.

What is your opinion of this situation? Do I have a legal case? My attempts to settle out of court

with the developers have been unsuccessful so far.

A. It would appear that one has trespassed on your property and stolen your "mistake." Are you a sales contract?

Your best bet is to have an appraiser with a timber company choice matter. A significant difference in estimates, then you may appraisals in court for the developer's "mistake."

Q. I was searching for a house to buy on which to base an agreement for two years. I will be buying a house together. Could you tell me where I might find a house to start from?

You appear to be looking for a partnership agreement stipulating all rights and obligations of each partner. This suffices.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is a professor at the Center for Real Estate at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. E-mail: tomhamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, address and phone number.

'Tis the season for Toys for Tots

■ Coldwell Banker celebrates 17th year as official collection center

COLDWELL BANKER

This holiday season, Coldwell Banker Northern California is once again joining forces with the United States Marine Corps Reserve in its local Toys for Tots campaign. This season marks Coldwell Banker's 17th consecutive year as an official gift collection center.

The annual program is designed to provide holiday joy for needy children through the collection and distribution of new, unwrapped toys. Coldwell Banker offices will serve as official collection centers from now until December 19.

Founded in 1947, Toys for Tots has evolved from a small Los Angeles-area project to a nationwide campaign. Over the past 56 years, Marines have distributed over 298 million toys to some 145 million needy children across the nation.

"For many children of the holiday season, the dream," said Avram Coldwell Banker San Francisco Area president and chief officer. "With the community we'll be able to provide children of our community a memorable holiday experience."

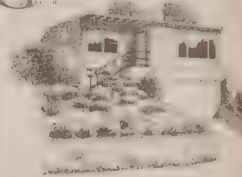
Residents who want to contribute may drop a new toy by one of these collection offices.

■ Berkeley Coldwell Banker 1495 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94703 510-486-1495

■ Oakland Coldwell Banker 6137 La Salle Ave. Oakland, CA 94611 510-339-4700

Members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve will collect the toys from each Coldwell Banker collection center and deliver them to charitable organizations and social welfare agencies in the community.

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Investors we all have financial goals we would like to achieve. Some of these goals include funding our children's educations, buying a home or making sure loved ones are protected in the event of an untimely death. The universal goal many investors share is making sure we have the financial security to enjoy a comfortable retirement. When you have left your office days behind you, you will still have the task of managing your income during your retirement years. This task may prove more difficult now than it has in past generations. Americans are living longer than ever before, so the money must last longer. The time spent in retirement may equal or even exceed your working years. Living expenses have also increased. Social Security benefits in 2000, according to the Social Security Administration, average retired worker received a monthly Social Security benefit of only \$804, or \$9,648 a year. Your pre-retirement income was more than \$10,000 a year; this amount may not be enough to maintain the lifestyle in which you are accustomed. Annuities may be able to reduce the impact of some of these issues. Because annuities are tax-deferred, they are an excellent investment tool to help build wealth for retirement. Annuities also help you generate an income stream during your retirement years. When the time comes to begin receiving income, annuities of many different strategies:

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If you invest after-tax money, you will receive a tax-advantaged income stream where you only pay taxes on the portion that is earnings. There are two types, depending on your investment objectives:

Fixed income for life

If you want to know exactly how much you will receive each payment, a fixed payment stream may be an appropriate choice. The amount of income is based on factors such as your age, investment amount and length of time you receive payments.

Variable income for life

With variable income for life, your income has the potential to increase over time. This is one way your income may keep pace with inflation. The payment amount is based on the performance of the investment options you choose and will fluctuate with that performance, therefore it could be more or less than your original investment.

Systematic Withdrawals

With systematic withdrawals*, you can withdraw a specific dollar amount from your annuity on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. Systematic withdrawals give you the flexibility to withdraw money when you need it and specify the amount you need.

No guarantees

There are no income guarantees with systematic withdrawals. Therefore, if you withdraw more than you earn, you

When you have left your office days behind you, you want to be assured you will still have the job of managing your income effectively during your retirement years. This task may prove more difficult now than it has in past generations.

run the risk of depleting your annuity assets and potentially outliving your income.

The benefits of an annuity may help you meet some of your retirement income needs. As always, before selecting any investment, you should work with your financial consultant to develop a personalized financial plan that will meet your long-term financial goals.

*Withdrawals of earnings are fully taxable and if taken before the age of 59 1/2 are subject to a 10% IRS penalty.

**Guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President-Investments with A. G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at (510) 452-8060.



LEILA GOUGH Money Matters

When the market speaks, listen

When the market is rocketing upward at a dizzying pace, pricing mistakes can go unpunished. During an intense seller's market, overpriced listings still sell, sometimes for outrageous sums.

Today's market, which remains quite active, is not as frenzied as at its peak. For buyers, this is good news. For some sellers, the biggest problem is still thinking they can dictate price. They eventually discover that, despite the strength of their convictions, it is the market that determines value, not their hopes, dreams or needs. Over time, the market will "normalize" and this concept will gain in significance.

Not heeding advice

Not long ago, an experienced, local Realtor had been in contact with an area homeowner for more than a year, in preparation for listing the home. The property was extremely spacious and located in an excellent location, near shopping and good schools. Unfortunately, it was a style that is not prized by most buyers.

During the pre-marketing period, the seller made numerous, costly improvements to the property, without ever seeking the agent's advice on which items were worth the investment and which were not. When complete, the house had some desirable features and a number of drawbacks.

As the months went by, in order to give the seller a better feel for pricing, the Realtor offered to show him new listings he felt were comparable to the seller's. The seller rebuffed those efforts, saying he knew the market.

When all the work was complete and it was time to list, the agent asked what price the seller had in mind. The seller proclaimed a price his agent felt was above reality — by about \$200,000. In response, the real estate professional suggested what he considered an asking price that would elicit interest and offers.

The seller, who liked the agent, said he would list for the higher price and not a penny less. Not wanting a grossly overpriced list-

ing, the agent recommended that the seller list with someone else. A short time later, the home was listed - for \$100,000 less than the seller's original price, but \$100,000 more than the first agent's opinion of value. Eventually, the price was lowered by another \$100,000 and the property sold slightly above the now realistic number.

There are three points to this story:

1) Had the seller listed at the lowest price initially, he would have had a chance of multiple offers, and, ultimately, a higher return to him. At the very least, it would have sold sooner.

2) Choose your Realtor carefully, and, once you decide, rely on his or her pricing advice. This should, of course, be substantiated with a Comparative Market Analysis. Why hire a professional if you are not willing to accept his or her advice?

3) The value of your home is independent of your opinion. It is what it is. The best agents do not have the emotional investment you have and they can be objective and rational.

Reverse thinking

Sometimes, out of need or stubbornness, sellers refuse to acknowledge what is right in front of them. Every agent who has been in the business for awhile has talked with sellers who say, "The house across the street sold for 'X,'" and, if it sold for that, my house must be worth "Y" (much more).

These kinds of statements are invariably wrong, but it is not easy to tell this to a seller without upsetting him or causing him to be-



DON DUNNING What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

Choose your Realtor carefully, and, once you decide, rely on his or her pricing advice. This should, of course, be substantiated with a Comparative Market Analysis. Why hire a professional if you are not willing to accept his or her advice?

lieve you do not like his house. No matter how tactfully put, a seller who has made up his mind will not hear anything contrary. When the styles are not compatible, i.e., the neighbor's house is a more popular style, and prices are leveling off (the other house sold nine months ago and the market is now cooler), it is even more difficult to convince the seller of the truth.

The ultimate backwards thinking is when a seller says his house did not sell because it was listed too low. The argument is

See DUNNING, Page B6

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How to work effectively with a contractor

When working with a contractor on a home improvement project, it can be rewarding or frustrating, depending on whether you have a competent and reliable contractor for the job. But other than just as essential in getting a good working relationship.

Let's our short list:

A well-written contract. In addition to detailing the work to be completed, the contract should include the price to be paid, and the responsibilities of each party. A contract should include provisions to protect both you and the contractor if terms are not met. Contractors have their own documents, but you can use your own.

Don't hesitate to negotiate. Negotiate in a standard contract. If you are unsure of any legal language, consult an attorney. The contract will follow the project to completion, and, if necessary, to court.

A sensible work schedule. Agree on your settle contract terms, including start and stop times and completion dates for phases of the project. Determine when you need to leave the site during demolition, for example, or can live there while the work is underway.

Let your neighbors know what's going on. In terms of traffic and noise, be considerate; ask your contractor to avoid using power tools before 8 a.m.

A clear payment schedule. For most projects, a staggered schedule of payments coinciding with completion dates works best. Most experts recommend withholding 10 percent of the project cost until after completion, to ensure that the contractor will solve any problems.

Weekly meetings. Before the project begins, schedule a meeting with the contractor and the project manager. Discuss details including the schedule, work hours, cleanup, and daily cleanup. Set a time for a regular weekly meeting to discuss any persistent problems or issues that arise during the project.

Project documents. Keep all documents relating to the project, including the plans, contract, schedule, change orders, and warranties or manuals. These documents should be accessible to you, the contractor, and the project manager.

Communications protocol. Homeowners often complain they can't reach a contractor who doesn't show up for work. To

avoid this problem, compile a list of telephone, fax, pager, and cell phone numbers for every essential person on the project — yourself included — at the first project meeting. Give everyone a copy and post one at the house. Make sure the contractor understands that you expect to be informed of changes in the work schedule.

7. A safe and secure job site.

Make sure that you and your contractor agree on safety issues, on-the-job conduct (no alcohol, for example), storage, cleanup of building materials, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Some states require contractors to hold regular safety meetings with workers. Know the rules and abide by them for your own safety.

8. A clean finish.

A working relationship can quickly deteriorate when a contractor doesn't clean up post-construction mess. Work areas should be picked up daily and cleaned when the project is finished. You may want to include a provision for professional janitorial services in the contract.

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GREETINGS

At the close of another wonderful year,
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Prudential California Realty

Montclair interior designer believes in color, color and more color

We had the privilege of meeting interior designer, Pat Benson when she was hired by one of our clients. The client had recently purchased a newly constructed luxury home in the Oakland hills, and she had wisely hired Pat to work her magic on the home's interiors.

The house had good bones: high vaulted ceilings, enormous windows, a spiral staircase and much more but the overall feeling was, in a word, bland.

Pat's first move was to create an entirely new color scheme and then working with the colors, she added gorgeous curtains, exciting furniture, clever touches here and there, and voilà — a tremendous transformation took place. Pat believes that each house has its own style and personality — an empty canvas that she can play with.

Pat is one of those gifted people with natural interior design talent. As a young child she used to re-arrange the furniture in her family's home, much to the amazement of her parents.

However, as an adult, she set this talent aside for many years while she worked in the computer industry leasing computers for 15 years and then for another 15, she was designing computer programs.

She was very successful, but she asserts that she was definitely

not "living her passion." She and her husband began to travel in Asia and they brought back wonderful pieces of art and furniture. As Pat says, most people come home from a trip with only their boarding pass, but she and her husband took the steps necessary to ship home large and unique pieces including furniture, marble statues, and wall hangings. Immediately, her friends were begging to buy her treasures, and her interior design business was born.

Since Pat and her husband moved from Sausalito to Oakland's Montclair District a few years ago, Pat has become an Oakland fan. She loves her home in what she calls her "million dollar pocket on top of the world, yet only 5 minutes from Montclair Village."

And she has kind words to say about starting a business in Oakland; she said the process of obtaining a business license was streamlined and user-friendly — she even wanted to send Oakland's mayor Jerry Brown an e-mail congratulating his city on making it easy for a new business to get started! Her design business is called Harmonique focusing on interiors, consulting and accessories.

Pat loves to work with homeowners who really want to be in-

involved in their decorating projects. She also insists that people work with a budget from the very beginning and be realistic about what they can spend.

She likes to map out the projects clearly and work with the process step by step and she almost always starts an interior design project with the color scheme. She believes that if you get the right background color in an environment, then everything comes together. And the colors she encourages people to use on their walls is definitely not for sissies! Pat's color schemes are adventuresome and striking, but they really work!

Glass-Sabine asked Pat Benson to give her opinion of the latest design trends and here's what she said.

More people are getting involved in their own home projects. With stores like Ikea, Target, Home Depot, and Elements, good designs are more available than ever to more people at affordable prices.

In addition, with all the House and Garden type shows on televi-

Most people come home from a trip with only their boarding pass, but she and her husband took the steps necessary to ship home large and unique pieces including furniture, marble statues, and wall hangings. Immediately, her friends were begging to buy her treasures, and Pat's interior design business was born.

sion, there is a strong awareness of creative decorating ideas and how to make our environments shine and sizzle! Since some people have cut back on travel (which may be partly a result of the events of September 11), they are staying home and spending their money on redecorating.

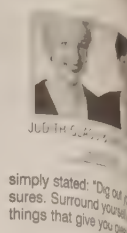
More colors are being used in home environments in contrast to all those years when off-white walls were everywhere.

Since Pat is such an advocate of experimenting with color, she says, "What's the worst thing that can happen? You spend \$30.00 on a can of paint and a few hours

on a Sunday afternoon doing the project and then if you don't like the color, you can easily re-do it."

We are lucky to live in Northern California where there is such an interesting and eclectic mixture of cultures. We can reflect this mix in our home environments by using blends of textures, patterns and colors.

Since Pat is an avid traveler, she always returns from her trips with items to add to her home decor, and she encourages everyone to do the same. Her philosophy is



simply stated: "Dig out your treasures. Surround yourself with things that give you joy."

Pat Benson is an interior designer and owner of Harmonique. She can be reached at 510-488-1234 or through her website www.harmonique.ws.

Judith Glass and Sherry Benninger comprise the Glass-Sabine real estate team at Bank of Alameda Realty in San Francisco. They can be reached at 415-5055, or through their website www.GlassSabine.com. You can read the entire column in their "House Talk" articles.

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BERKELEY. Absolutely breathtaking style & views! 3-car garage w/ level entry to kitchen/family room. 5+BR/4.5BA. Elegantly customized throughout. Designed by Jarvis Architects & built by Reuvekamp Builders. Bebe McRae

BRAND NEW HOME \$2,988,000
OAKLAND. Elegance beyond measure. New traditional in LaSalle Estates. 5BR/5+BA, elevator, 3-car garage & breathtaking four bridge view. Great location. Debra J. Dryden

SPECTACULAR VIEWS \$2,495,000
OAKLAND. Sensational one-of-a-kind home in popular Piedmont side of Montclair. Walls of glass, high ceilings & stunning living room. Sweeping SF views await you! Great attached 2nd unit apartment. Anian Pettit Tunney

RARE OPPORTUNITY! \$1,550,000
BERKELEY. Almost an acre of landscaped gardens, woods & creek! Beautiful custom-built level-in home. 3BR/2.5BA, huge family room or home office, private drive to secluded retreat near shops, BART & Bay Bridge. Bebe McRae

VIEW TRADITIONAL \$1,350,000
BERKELEY. A fabulous home designed & built by Paul Vincent. Stunning views. 4BR/3.5BA, kitchen/family room opens level out to private front patio. 2-car attached garage. Quality finishes throughout. Karen Starr

THE UPLANDS \$1,250,000
BERKELEY. The ballroom of the legendary Taylor estate! Huge flowing spaces adopted from an original 40-room mansion. 4BR/3BA. Huge living room/ballroom. Cavernous former stable below. Templeton/Keogh

MEDITERRANEAN JEWEL \$1,650,000
OAKLAND. Diablo Heights. Magnificent new Mediterranean w/ unsurpassed views. Timeless design & features including 2 grand fireplaces, gourmet kitchen and expansive deck. Lavish master suite. Jill Carrigan

SLEEK CONTEMPORARY \$1,125,000
OAKLAND. This recently completed custom contemporary features a lush garden courtyard, floor to ceiling windows, large indoor atrium & high quality finishes. 3+BR/2.5BA. Loft & library. Master bath w/ sauna. Ford/Plowright

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,089,000
OAKLAND. A gorgeous traditional on a beautiful tree-lined street. 4BR/2.5BA, gourmet kitchen w/ granite, family room + office. Hardwood floors. D. DiMaggio & A. Betta

MONTCLAIR
Oakland. Dramatic 3BR/2BA Piedmont contemporary w/ SF Bay views. Living room opens to a fabulous covered deck, perfect for entertaining. Debra J. Dryden

RESORT LIVING \$775,000
Oakland. Expansive two-parcel site in serene setting. 2BA and fabulous entertaining from family room to access to gorgeous pool and patio. Helene Benninger

BUILDABLE LOTS \$689,000 EA
OAKLAND. Two wonderful Piedmont side of Montclair lots. Priced separately. Debra J. Dryden

MONTCLAIR VIEW HOME \$550,000
OAKLAND. Wonderful Montclair home w/ dramatic Gate Bridge view. Incredible quality finishes including granite, cherry wood & bamboo. 2BR/2BA. Living room w/ fireplace, two-car garage. Arlene Benninger

ROCKRIDGE CRAFTSMAN \$550,000
OAKLAND. Charming Craftsman w/ original woodwork & built-ins! 2BR/1BA, updated kitchen/family room detached garage. Close to shops & BART. Bebe McRae

PIEDMONT AVE. FIXER \$450,000
OAKLAND. This charming Victorian home awaits restoration and expansion. Conveniently located near shops, dining & transportation. Mary DeLong

FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY \$199,000
OAKLAND. Perfect 1940's cosmetic fixer on a large lot. 1BA, kitchen/family room & Bay views. Nancy Long

BERKELEY LOT \$199,000
BERKELEY. Build your new home in Park Hills Canyon. Park views. Survey & soil report available. Arlene Benninger

CLAREMONT LOT \$199,000
BERKELEY. Upslope Claremont Hills lot w/ panoramic views. Surrounded by million dollar properties. Diane Benninger

SERVING PIEDMONT, BERKELEY & OAKLAND - GRUBBCO.COM

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1182 Brown St - \$513,000
383 Capetown Dr - \$675,000
3 Castiebar Pl - \$1,920,000
1701 Central Av #H - \$338,500
2520 Chester St - \$482,000
1428 Cottage - \$510,000
11 Courageous B54 - \$525,000
1907 Eagle Av - \$323,000
3265 Encinal Av - \$575,000
3217 Fernside Bl - \$1,040,000
3258 Fillmore St - \$558,000
1120 Fontana Dr - \$449,000
22 Kilkeny Ct - \$821,000
453 Pacific Av - \$485,000
966 Park St - \$650,000
1350 Regent St - \$410,000
1623 Sherman St - \$600,000
1 Ulster Pl - \$622,500

ALBANY

908 Carmel Av - \$555,000
1116 Ordway St - \$545,000
555 Pierce St #1102 - \$340,000
555 Pierce St #1522 - \$255,000
555 Pierce St #1723 - \$294,500
555 Pierce St #741 - \$325,000
1104 Pomona Av - \$500,000

BERKELEY

1604 Ashby Av - \$370,000
1207 Bancroft Wy - \$360,000
2626 Benvenue 2 - \$300,000
1822 Berkeley W3 - \$228,000
1221 Carlotia Av - \$595,000
2135 Cedar St - \$750,000
2109 Emerson St - \$450,000
3124 Eton Av - \$1,015,000
987 Euclid Av - \$799,000
2323 Glen Av - \$600,000
1128 Keith Av - \$740,000
2700 Le Conte 201 - \$310,000
2424 MLK Jr Wy - \$650,000
65 Maryland Av - \$652,000
2130 McGee Av - \$710,000
2436 McGee Av - \$630,000
2803 Regent St - \$685,000
2815 Regent St - \$437,500
1927 Vine St - \$495,000
830 Virginia St - \$260,000
1620 Woolsey St - \$475,000

EL CERRITO

905 Balra Dr - \$480,000
928 Everett St - \$470,000
1532 Lexington Av - \$500,000
1135 Liberty St - \$450,000
933 Liberty St - \$450,000
210 Ramona Av - \$445,500
7709 Ricardo Ct - \$670,000
438 Richmond St - \$390,000
5403 Rosalind Av - \$430,000
211 Vista Heights - \$395,000

EL SOBRANTE

5519 Amend Rd - \$415,000
886 Bridgeway Cr - \$616,000
890 Bridgeway Cr - \$603,500
34 Carter Ct - \$615,000
330 Joan Vista St - \$409,000
492 Rincon Rd - \$315,000
5290 SP Dam Rd A8 - \$150,000

EMERYVILLE

1572 32nd St - \$320,000
1200 65th 205 - \$379,000
1248 65th St - \$525,000
3604 Adeline - \$315,000
3 Admiral F265 - \$179,000
6363 Christie 1912 - \$308,000
3 Commodore B152 - \$233,000

2 Commodore D372 - \$190,000
66th Street - \$340,000

KENSINGTON

200 Amherst Av - \$575,000
40 Edgecroft Rd - \$850,000
29 Highgate Rd - \$650,000
156 Highland Bl - \$638,000

OAKLAND

1807 105th Av - \$340,000
1661 12th St - \$275,500
1416 17th St - \$191,000
662 25th St - \$400,000
2411 26th Av - \$232,000
3480 35th Av - \$375,000
2037 36th Av - \$245,000
3760 39th Ave K - \$300,000
664 39th Av - \$260,000
2157 41st Av - \$286,000
459 43rd St - \$475,000
1500 50th Av - \$359,000
821 53rd St - \$375,000
1063 54th St - \$250,000
637 55th St - \$430,000
812 57th St - \$390,000
2620 68th Av - \$267,500
1084 71st Av - \$170,000
1235 71st Av - \$270,000
2130 73rd Av - \$340,000
2629 75th Av - \$240,000
1703 83rd Av - \$249,000
2337 85th Av - \$308,000
2324 87th Av - \$267,500
1519 89th Av - \$253,000
485 8th 304 - \$250,000
1228 91st Av - \$330,000
1705 96th Av - \$338,000
710 Appar St - \$474,000
5876 Ascot Dr - \$675,000
338 Ashton Av - \$265,000
1933 Auseon - \$235,000
71 Bay Forest - \$999,000
1126 Bella Vista - \$425,000
565 Bellevue 1608 - \$368,000
31 Biehs Ct - \$715,500
924 Blenheim St - \$272,000
5339 Brann St - \$385,000
6425 Brann St - \$267,000
5515 Broadway - \$540,000
4007 Brookedale - \$340,000
3544 Butters Dr - \$650,000
5711 Cabot Dr - \$649,000
280 Caldecott 316 - \$321,500
10975 Caloden St - \$489,000
5016 Camden St - \$450,000
165 Chadbourne - \$542,000
1527 Chandler St - \$345,000
2637 Chestnut St - \$275,000
3806 Columbian Dr - \$436,000
2629 Coolidge Av - \$398,000
2477 Cordova St - \$535,000
2258 Courtland Av - \$455,000
3336 Courtland Av - \$299,000
195 Crestmont Dr - \$625,000
2908 East 16th St - \$290,000
641 East 18th St - \$245,000
2204 East 24th St - \$385,000
3047 East 7th St - \$385,000
6823 Eastlawn St - \$280,000
625 El Dorado 202 - \$210,000
2229 Foothill Bl - \$330,000
320 Fresno St - \$279,000
2769 Garden St - \$320,000
2875 Glascock 206 - \$500,000
2875 Glascock 214 - \$444,000
10519 Graffian St - \$353,000
446 Haddon Rd - \$450,000
5715 Harmon Av - \$245,000
20 Hillcrest Ct - \$600,000
7331 Hillmont Dr - \$400,000
1266 Holman Rd - \$950,000
3868 Howe St - \$615,000
2568 Humboldt Av - \$360,000

1835 Irving Av - \$218,000
3505 Klamath - \$1,225,000
5511 La Salle Av - \$750,000
320 Lee St #304 - \$269,500
320 Lee St #706 - \$305,000
654 Longridge - \$1,072,000
6806 MacArthur Bl - \$290,000
3518 Mangels Av - \$263,000
567 Martin St - \$450,000
3921 Maybelle Av - \$615,000
4231 Maybelle Av - \$580,000
6194 Mazuela Dr - \$900,000
6106 Monadnock Wy - \$303,000
3001 Monticello Av - \$460,000
2880 Morcom Av - \$401,000
5150 Mountain Bl - \$500,000
3226 Nicol Av - \$423,000
10916 Novelda Dr - \$275,000
311 Oak St #106 - \$390,000
311 Oak St #336 - \$570,000
311 Oak St #337 - \$443,500
311 Oak St #514 - \$470,000
311 Oak St #721 - \$274,500
311 Oak St #828 - \$318,000
311 Oak St #842 - \$320,000
10809 Packard St - \$383,000
10811 Packard St - \$379,500
10815 Packard St - \$296,000
10817 Packard St - \$292,500
10819 Packard St - \$299,000
2401 Park Bl #6 - \$273,000
3011 Parker Av - \$425,000
155 Pearl St #107 - \$170,000
6931 Pinehaven - \$631,000
6949 Pinehaven - \$575,000
2449 Potomac St - \$415,000
2539 Potomac St - \$240,000
4164 Redding St - \$135,000
1148 Seminary Av - \$217,000
2435 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
2438 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
2445 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
6953 Simson St - \$380,000
6865 Skyline Bl - \$795,000
9130 Skyline Bl - \$750,000
1001 Stanford Av - \$378,000
10970 Star Ct - \$453,500
10976 Star Ct - \$494,000
10978 Star Ct - \$400,000
7437 Sunkist Dr - \$385,000
274 Vernon St - \$505,000
2146 Vicksburg Av - \$333,000
5407 Walnut St - \$255,000

PIEDMONT

229 Carmel Av - \$920,000
121 Hagar Av - \$1,230,000
121 La Salle Av - \$2,465,000
170 Lake Av - \$680,000
160 Olive Av - \$579,000
226 Park View Av - \$930,000
1047 Ranleigh Wy - \$680,000
230 San Carlos - \$799,000
330 San Carlos - \$1,325,000

RICHMOND

532 19th St - \$375,000
1555 2nd St - \$158,000
1571 2nd St - \$325,000
1858 2nd St - \$150,000
732 5th St - \$339,000
664 7th St - \$240,000
688 9th St - \$202,000
605 Banks Dr - \$280,000

2900 Barrett Av - \$650,000
1201 Brickyard 216 - \$460,000
1331 Carlson Bl - \$292,000
520 Civic Center St - \$309,000
5431 Colusa Av - \$310,000
2205 Dunn Av - \$225,000
1620 Elm Av - \$365,000
2344 Esmond Av - \$320,000
605 Florida Av - \$178,000
3618 Garvin Av - \$300,000
2435 Groveview Ct - \$319,000
4400 Jenkins Wy - \$270,000
5801 Knobcone Dr - \$510,000
2111 Lincoln Av - \$285,000
3605 May Rd - \$450,000
3756 Morningside - \$510,000
3766 Northridge Dr - \$335,000
204 Park Ln - \$248,000
2500 Pine Av - \$318,000
5126 Potrero Av - \$299,000
2513 San Mateo St - \$448,000
508 Silver Av - \$236,000
625 South 17th St - \$315,000
417 South 38th St - \$340,000
245 South 7th St - \$309,000
139 S. Harbour Wy - \$310,000
5010 State Av - \$262,000
5021 State Av - \$370,000
2373 Wendell Av - \$450,000
663 Wilson Av - \$329,500
2811 Wiswall Dr - \$325,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$255,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$555,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$340,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$402,071

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 21
LOWEST PRICE: \$228,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,015,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$595,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$548,167

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$390,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$468,050

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$150,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$415,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$446,214

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$179,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$315,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$309,889

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$245,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$850,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$547,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 127
LOWEST PRICE: \$110,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,225,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$320,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$342,000

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,465,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$920,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,072,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 39
LOWEST PRICE: \$150,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,465,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$315,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$520,000

This list is provided by the County of Alameda, a real estate resource company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor the County Recorder's Office guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource.

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81 MONTELL ST.



Craftsman gem in the popular Piedmont Avenue neighborhood. Spacious three bedroom with stunning original architectural details including redwood wainscoting and paneling, inlaid hardwood floors and a stone fireplace. Master bedroom has 11 new Pella windows and a cozy wood stove.

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Montclair Residents

TELEPHONE GUIDE

EMERGENCY

Poison Control
Animal Control
Police (Non Emergency)

HOSPITALS

Children's
Alta Bates
Summit Medical
Kaiser Permanente
Highland

TRANSPORTATION

A.C. Transit
BART
Yellow Cab

UTILITIES

PG & E
SBC/Pacific Bell
EBMUD
Waste Management of Alameda Co.
ATT/TCI TV Cable
Dish Network Satellite

REALTOR

Hal & Kate Castle

SCHOOLS

Montclair Elementary
Thornhill Elementary
Joaquin Miller Elementary
Montera Middle
Skyline High

911
800-876-4766
535-5602
777-3333
428-3000
204-4444
752-4000
752-1000
437-4800

817-1717
465-2278
655-8100
800-743-5000
800-310-2355
287-1380
613-8710
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800-333-3474

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879-1570
879-1420
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Hal & Kate Castle
"Montclair's Team"

510.339.9778
www.MontclairsTeam.com



Holiday Wishes

Wishing you
A Happy & Healthy New Year
a peaceful & prosperous 2004



Chris Neddersen
Realtor®, Assistant Manager
Prudential California Realty
Berkeley Regional Office
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RED OAK REALTY
WISHING YOU A VERY BEST THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON AND THROUGHOUT 2004.


Happy Holidays!



Thank you for all of your business in 2003!
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1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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*Wishing you and yours a happy
safe holiday season!*



Thank you for your continued referrals
are the life blood of my business.
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1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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*Wishing everybody happy holidays
and a healthy 2004.*



Thanks so much to clients, friends and colleagues
for the support and business you have given me.
Kathy Nitsan 510.280.2125
1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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*Wishing You the Very Best This
Holiday Season and Throughout 2004.*



We value your business and look forward to our
continued relationship in the New Year
Diane Ohlsson 510.280.2139
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Holiday Season and Throughout 2004.*




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342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

*Peace, Joy & Best Wishes
for the New Year!*



JEKABSON
East Bay Real Estate
1000 E. 9th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 276-9142

Happy Holidays!



May the joy of the season
fill your hearts and homes
Dolores Chen
(510) 847-6666

*Warmest wishes from
my home to yours...*



As another year draws to a close, may you &
your loved ones enjoy a memorable season
of peace, joy and love. Thanks for your
continued support, friendship & referrals.

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*Have a peaceful and prosperous
life & keep joy in your heart.*



Thousan Walden
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*I wish you a joyful
and prosperous year.*



Nancy Hinkley
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Peace on Earth



Arlene Acufia
Broker Associate
(510) 869-5851

264 Arlington Ave., Kensington/Berkeley

*I wish you a joyful
and prosperous year.*



Logene Butler
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*May your New Year
be filled with peace, joy
& happiness. Best Wishes.*



Lisa Fromme
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*Best Wishes for a splendid 2004
full of*

- Good Health
- Prosperity
- Peace



Claire Cunningham
(510) 287-9065
342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

*Holiday Greetings from
Jeans Realty!*

*Wishing you all
the best for the
coming year.*



Jeans REALTY

Diane Sindel-Deutsche, Broker/Owner
(510) 524-8508

*Wishing you all
the best for the
coming year.*



Peter Fletcher
Windermere Properties of the East Bay
510-521-1177

**Windermere
Properties of the East Bay**

*Wishing You Peace
and Happiness for the
New Year!*



Leslie Avant
510-338-1341

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GMAC Real Estate Services

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



**Bob & Carolyn
Nelson**
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*Wishing you all
the best for the
coming year.*



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*Wishing You Peace This Holiday
Season with Health, Happiness and
Prosperity in the New Year!*




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2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley CA 94704



Thank YOU for making 2003 a wonderful year!

From your friends at Nakamura Realty, Inc., We wish you
and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday!
May peace, prosperity and good health be Yours in 2004.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Adan Sanchez, Eric Kawakami, James Obayomi,
Lien Hue Ly, Robert Harvey, Shewell Gebreezi,
Steven Malaki, Serena McClory, Shauna Sullivan,
Steve Yoshimura & Maggie**

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BY APPOINTMENT

INCOME PROPERTIES

LAND



2137 ADAMS
Alameda East End. Make this charming Cape Cod style 3 bedrooms, 2 bath cottage your own! Charming details, hardwood and wall to wall carpet. Efficient galley kitchen with access to dining area. Marvelous level lot. Off street parking. Move in condition. Carol Robbaino 531-7000x292

\$479,000



155 10th STREET
Oakland, Downtown condo. Two bedrooms, two baths with loft space, looks toward courtyard garden. Close to shopping, BART, movies, restaurants, Jack London and Chinatown. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

\$349,000



1964 MARSHALL
North Oakland, 1st Open! Conveniently located near shops & restaurants in Berkeley & Emeryville. 2 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths could be 3rd bedroom, formal dining, hwd. floors. Needs work. As-is sale. Nancy Novick 531-7000x254

\$265,000



BEAUTY IN THE CLAREMONT HILLS

Claremont Hills. 3900 sq. ft., four BD, three full BA, open & light. Owner willing to sell 8000 sq. ft. lot next door as well. This house has everything but you! Come take a look. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

\$1,900,000



NEW PANORAMIC BAY VIEW HOME
Montclair. Stately new home. Five plus bedrooms, four and a half baths. Media room, rumpus room, library, formal living and dining rooms. Level front yard area. David Hennigan 531-7000x229

\$1,395,000

MOVE RIGHT IN!
North Oakland. Best value in neighborhood. 3BD, 2BA, family room, living room, dining room, fireplace, hwd floors, 2-car garage, rear yard w/fruit trees, freshly painted. Must see! Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

\$420,000

SIX UNITS

North Berkeley. Off Shattuck Avenue. Close distance to CAL. Owners unit vacant! Hardwood floors, tile kitchen, good parking, top locale. Frank Hennefer 531-7006x235

\$825,000

GREAT VIEW LOT IN CLAREMONT HILLS

9100 Sq. Ft. upslope, beautiful view of city and bay. Up above it all but close to Claremont Spa and Resort, shops, restaurants and easy access to Hwy 24. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

\$299,000

TAHOE PROPERTIES

IMAGINE...THE PERFECT TAHOE HOME
Stunning great room w/huge wood windows two eight foot glass doors leading to a large south facing deck. Grand staircase off deck leads to a fabulous backyard, kitchen w/granite counter tops, shaker style cabinets with lighting & chefs pantry. The great room & kitchen have distressed hickory wood floors. Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463

\$759,000

MIXED UNITS

Oakland. Four 1BD residential units over two commercial storefronts. Five parking spaces off street. Perfect live-work setup. Foundation, electrical roof, plumbing has been redone. Near International Blvd. & 14th Avenue. Frank Hennefer 531-7006x235

\$795,000

EXCELLENT, LOW-EXPENSE, INCOME PROPERTY

Allendale Park. Five 2BD/1BA units with garage. Coin-op laundry and additional storage area. Great condition with many upgrades. Current vacancies prepped for new owner's desired use. Carlo Tamburino 531-7006x279

\$775,000

DELIGHTFUL EASY LIVING

This charming Agate Bay home features an airy open living area with enough space for a home office, & dining area. Kitchen has tile throughout w/attractive appliances. Oversized 2-car garage, view of the lake too. Pat Lucas or Carla Werner 800-858-2463

\$420,000

RIDGEWOOD HIGHLANDS CHALET

Three bedrooms plus loft, two bathrooms, bright & open floor plan, & great location in a quiet neighborhood. Close to Tahoe City with tons of potential. Carrie Tolar & Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463

\$359,000

VICTORIAN DUPLEX

Oakland. Great Pill Hill location, original high ceiling, windows, molding, needs TLC. Anne Bruff 531-7006x283

\$399,000

Holiday Wishes

May Your Home be Filled with the Spirit of Peace and Love!

Dee Knowland
510-338-1318



Greetings to all of my past and present clients! May 2004 see your goals attained and your dreams fulfilled! Peace and Joy to each one!

Joan E. Hause
510-338-1358



Peace, Joy & Good Health. May every day be a Holiday.

Jan Mason
OMM Inc.

Mason Management
2514 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda
(510) 522-8074

May Peace, Joy and the Magic of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year.

Ruth Masonek, CRS, SRES
Certified Residential Specialist
(510) 748-1101

Gallagher and Lindsey, Inc.

Peace and Happiness for the New Year. May all your dreams come true.

Linda Larkin
2515 Clement Ave.
Alameda
(510) 521-5210



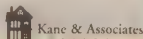
Warmest Holiday Greetings! Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy & Safe New Year!

Tere Lee, CRS
885 Island Dr., Alameda
(510) 814-4840



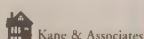
Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings. Many thanks to my clients and friends.

Lisa Lawley
879A Island Dr., Alameda
(510) 865-2800



THANKS to all my clients and friends. Sending you and your family the warmest holiday wishes and blessings and prosperity for 2004!

Anita Wong
879A Island Dr., Alameda
(510) 523-6058



Season's Greetings to You & Best of Luck in 2004!

Peter Holmes
(510) 749-7772



Happy Holidays! Best Wishes throughout the Season and have a wonderful New Year.

Deidre Dixon
885 Island Dr., Alameda
(510) 814-4875



Wishing you good health & many meaningful days in 2004. Each of us makes a difference! Happy New Year!

Ruby Ng, CRS
(510) 339-4779
rubyng.com



My very best wishes for the holidays and New Year.

Lois Caskey Johnson, Broker, CRS
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or ljohnson@c21hre.com
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Enjoy your holiday & have a prosperous New Year.

Helen Nicholas
Century 21 Heritage Real Estate
6137 La Salle Ave.
(510) 339-8900 x238



Happy Holidays! I've moved to Century 21 Heritage Real Estate.

Victor Fierro
6137 La Salle Ave.
(510) 339-8900 x242



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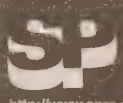


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Last wk 5.875
This wk 5.750

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COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Rates as of 12/16/03 COMMENTS
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 6038894 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.500 5.510 ... 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.500 5.884 ... 35	15-yr Fixed 4.825 ... 1.000 4.860 ... 35	COOI 30 yr ARM 1.950* ... 0.000 4.880 ... 60	Purchase, Refinance or Cashout. COOI COFI, COFI Open 7 Days *Potential Neg-Arm.
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 2.000 5.550 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 2.000 5.749 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 2.000 4.872 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 ... 2.000 5.399 ... 30	Apply online at www.ditech.com -Your mortgage solution. Delivered
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 1.625 5.676 ... 60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.750 6.335 ... 60	1-mo COFI ARM* 6.250 ... 1.000 4.591 ... 45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience, fixed & adjust rate mtgs. *Pot. neg arm Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
eSource Mortgage, Inc. 888-221-9787 DOC# 0038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 1.750 5.560 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 2.000 5.700 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 2.000 4.580 ... 30	1-yr ARM* 1.250 ... 0.000 3.340 ... 60	Low rates with NO POINTS A... NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE *Pot neg arm Pics. online @ www.lendia.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.125 5.730 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.125 5.920 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 ... 0.125 4.660 ... 30	10/1 ARM 5.825 ... 0.000 5.860 ... 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST FAST APPROVALS. 0 POINT 0 FEE LOANS Call 7days wk mghtlnt@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1652	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 2.000 5.501 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.908 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 2.000 4.740 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 ... 0.000 4.280 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APPROVALS 100% PURCHASE PROGRAMS NO CLOSING COSTS 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIR
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 0103932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 1.000 5.570 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 1.000 5.820 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 1.000 4.820 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 1.000 4.320 ... 30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! ME FOR A HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! CLOSING 30 DAYS OR APPRAISAL IS FREE!
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1631	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.980 5.370 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.880 5.523 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 1.980 4.733 ... 30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 3.875 ... 0.000 5.481 ... 30	Good & Bad Credit Considered Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans visit us at www.matrixinvestments.com
Mortgage Broker Assoc. 877-987-7700 DRE# 01116614 Fees=\$2277	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.600 5.684 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.125 5.809 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.750 ... 1.000 3.864 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 0.500 3.766 ... 30	NO Income/NO Assets/NO Job? - YES NO Money Down/NO Closing Costs? - YES All types of Credit? - YES
Mortgage Center USA 800-640-5588 DOC# 00881816 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 2.000 5.412 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 2.000 5.860 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 2.000 4.820 ... 30	10-yr Int Only ARM 3.125 ... 0.000 3.230 ... 30	5/1 3.625 2pts 3.750 APR W/... NO COST LOANS \$ Bay California... Purchase and Refinance Special
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.716 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.967 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.151 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 3.872 ... 30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. All gov't loans 100% loans credit lines, consummation
National Financial Corp. 510-818-9966 DRE# 965926 Fees=\$1800	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.762 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.067 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.250 ... 0.000 4.310 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.812 ... 30	Fast approval on Purchase... Easy qualify. Call for FREE... ask us about our purchase special
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call ... call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ... call ...	6 month ARM call ... call ...		WOULD NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS No-Point loans are available! (3yr ppp) E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Omni Funding Services 800-303-8887 DRE# 01183556 Fees=\$2051	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 1.500 5.725 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 1.500 5.928 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.500 5.251 ... 30	5/1 ARM 4.375 ... 1.500 4.585 ... 30	Check out our web site for more rates! We are committed to EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124551 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.856 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.921 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.793 ... 30	5/25 ARM 4.500 ... 0.000 4.598 ... 30	Se Habla Espanol! 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only loans OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-369-6633 DOC# 01430386 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.560 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.000 5.778 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.250 ... 0.000 3.764 ... 30	5/1 ARM 4.000 ... 0.000 3.958 ... 30	Get rates online at www.premiermortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get it done! Great jumbo & interest only programs
Santelli & Associates 800-516-0658 DRE# 00489593 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.592 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 6.033 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.750 ... 0.000 3.833 ... 25	5/1 ARM 1.950* ... 0.000 4.768 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS - 0 COSTS wait INTEREST ONLY / DOWN PAYMENT! APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanspawork.com
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01202326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed call ... call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ... call ...	15-yr Fixed call ... call ...	5/1 ARM call ... call ...	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purch/Refi to 100% Saratogabancorp.com
SF Pacific Mtge. Consult. 415-567-5525 DRE# 01243287 Fees=\$1695	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.667 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.998 ... 30	1 Month MTA 1.250 ... 0.000 3.669 ... 30	Jumbo 6 mo 100* 2.750 ... 0.500 2.788 ... 30	Expert Real Estate Advice! Local SF Bay Area Broker 5 yr int only period. Labor indexed
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.592 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.000 5.790 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.164 ... 45	1-yr ARM* 1.250 ... 0.000 1.310 ... 45	Refi, purchase or consolidate... Free Approval No Doc Loans *pot neg arm M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.910 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 6.090 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.190 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 5.090 ... 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online! www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 1.000 5.554 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 1.000 5.755 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 1.000 5.050 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.500 ... 1.000 3.872 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS 888 821-6200 CREDIT PROBLEMS OK WWW.AAALENDER.COM
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE# 00892684 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.687 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 ... 0.000 5.906 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 0.000 3.754 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 ... 0.000 3.854 ... 30	7/1 Jumbo ARM 5.250% apr 4.413% 1month ARM 1% start rate, apr 3.194% Prepay & other restrictions may apply
AltLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.125 5.740 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.125 5.678 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 0.000 5.046 ... 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.250 4.529 ... 30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. and Sun. from 12pm Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DOC# 8038552 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.713 ... 40	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.000 5.861 ... 40	3/1 ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.922 ... 40	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 0.000 5.191 ... 40	Best rates & lowest fees guaranteed or we pay \$300! Visit www.amerisave.com today to search rates
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1806	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 1.000 5.613 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 1.000 5.723 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 1.000 4.832 ... 30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.625 ... 1.000 2.763 ... 30	100% Financing Available - Fast Closings No Cost for Appraisal - Refinance Today! Low/Moderate Income Programs Available
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.625* ... 0.849 5.766 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625* ... 1.061 5.798 ... 30	6 month ARM 3.000* ... 0.308 3.091 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.750* ... 1.317 3.918 ... 30	*Purchase only. Call for refinance Rates Let us help you obtain your down payment
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 01116696 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 1.250 5.473 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 1.250 5.662 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.500 ... 0.000 4.546 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo IO 4.125 ... 0.000 4.170 ... 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1M. Interest Only to 2 MIL \$ 3.0-5.75 180 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home Plu*
California Mtge. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI x600 DRE# 01170868 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.716 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.040 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.161 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 ... 0.000 4.662 ... 30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MIL LION WWW.CALMTG.COM
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.790 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.040 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.290 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 ... 0.000 4.540 ... 30	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01170028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 1.125 5.540 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 1.375 5.778 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500 ... 1.125 3.815 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 1.375 4.266 ... 30	*Open Sat & Sun. Quick Qualifier & special income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit.

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Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$322,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact lender for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. *Fees in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-482-9000 Patricia Bennett</div></div> <div><div>Oakland</div><div>\$925,000 6773 Sobrante Rd 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Prudential Ca Realty</div><div>\$1,025,000 601 Via Rialto Rd. 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Pacific Union Real Estate</div><div>\$1,095,000 6820 Thornhill Dr 4+BD/4BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Prudential Ca Realty</div><div>\$1,195,000 818 Northvale Rd. 7BD/4BA Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands Pacific Union Real Estate</div><div>\$1,495,000 6877 Elverton 3+BD/4.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Coldwell Banker</div><div>\$1,730,000 1628 Grand View Dr. 5+BD/5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills Coldwell Banker</div><div>\$2,350,000 20 Stephens Way 4+BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills Coldwell Banker</div><div>Richmond</div><div>\$397,000 2609 Beachead Ct 2+BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty</div><div>\$674,988 1519 Barth Ave 4BD/3BA Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific R.E.</div><div>San Francisco</div><div>\$649,000 2 Fallon Pl. #57 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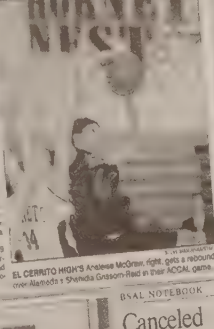
Who is favorite team?

SPORTS

Friday, February 21, 2004

Alameda triples its pleasure

By Scott Strain
Love by the '3' or by the '7'—and Alameda beat. The Hornets (17-5, 9-0 in the ACCAL) came from behind to defeat the Oilers (17-5, 9-0 in the ACCAL) 3-1 on Tuesday night in the 17th round of the ACCAL playoffs. The Oilers, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind. The Hornets, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind. The Oilers, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind. The Hornets, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind.



EL CERRITO HIGH'S Andrew McInnes (right) gets a rebound over Alameda's Shonda Givens (left) in their ACCAL game.

Oilers set for NCS opener

By Orlando Molina
After a long and hard season, the Oilers are set to open the NCS playoffs on Tuesday night. The Oilers, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind. The Hornets, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind.



Canceled games hurt Salesian

By Scott Strain
The Salesian High School basketball team has been hit hard by the cancellation of several games. The Oilers, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind. The Hornets, who had won the first two rounds, were in a bit of a bind.

From balls, pucks and pins to oars, sails and skis, we've got local sports covered.

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The image contains three maps of Northern California, each showing the locations of 48 numbered points of interest. The top map covers the area from Redding to Sacramento, highlighting points 48, 31, 45, and 35. The middle map covers the area from Vacaville to Suisun City, highlighting points 50, 49, 51, 110, and 109. The bottom map is a detailed view of the Suisun City area, showing Highway 63, Sunset Blvd, and the Roseville Galleria.

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MARTINEZ, 12 acre Const. yd., w/ pool, 925-935-0642. 1000 sq. ft. office space, 1000 sq. ft. warehouse or other 7/77.

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Clayton/Concord border. 2700 sq. ft. 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 1000 sq. ft. garage, everything is new! 5800/2b1/2a, 489K. Open house Sat. 12-4, 25 Angi Ln. 925-951-9710.

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Personal and complimentary tours of Rossmore for seniors 55+. Call for info. 925-937-4650.

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ANTHONY 3bd/2ba, new apt. & pnt., nr. downtown, 1400+ dep. 925-457-5700.

Duplexes-6 Plex
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Retail Space Lease
ANTHONY - retail office, 2400 sq. ft. Next to Safeway, 3182 Contra Costa Blvd. 707-337-5244.

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ALBANY home, sep. ent., 2 bdrms, 1 bath, 1000 sq. ft., 1/2 util. \$525. 510-238-4344.

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Diamond District - Oakland
Handsome 3-unit building on large lot
with plenty of off street parking.
Two-bedroom unit on top floor
and one-bedroom unit on lower floor
will be vacant at close of escrow.
Hardwood floors; two fireplaces.
\$589,000



Russian Hill
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Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony
and panoramic Bay views.
1 car parking, 24-hour door person, on-site
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Real Estate

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Tuesday, Dec. 23rd - 11:00 am

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*5.28% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$2,585. minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.
**5.89% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$1,909. minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.
***4.406% estimated loan percentage rate is based on \$500,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. 5/1 Adjustable Rate Mortgage is fixed for first 5 years and then adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment is \$2,722. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of December 15, 2003 are subject to change without notice.

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OAKLAND \$849,900
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Unique opportunity in Redwood Heights. Over 1/2 an acre, traditional 3 bedroom updated home + 2 bedroom cottage. 3 car garage. See Virtual Tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

OAKLAND \$810,000
277 Capricorn Avenue
New on the market! Beautiful Montclair contemporary with master suite. Two family rooms, Eat-in-kitchen, open floorplan. Good family home close to village.
Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

OAKLAND \$579,000
4267 Montgomery Street
Cute California Bungalow, beautiful hardwood floors, great location. Huge backyard, extra large living room, formal dining room.
Michael Godanis 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$459,000
3939 Randolph Avenue
Sharp Glenview Charmer on a sunny lot with lots of upgrades, spacious rooms, a basement, storage. Easy SF commute.
Arnold Mueller 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$399,000
320 Park View Terrace
New on the market! Beautiful condo walking distance to Lake Merritt, 2 BD/2 BA, fireplace, inside laundry.
Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

OAKLAND \$395,000
3025 Linden Avenue
This beautifully remodeled victorian boasts the perfect fusion of original detail and modern updates. LR, DR have hardwood floors. Newer kitchen. 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 updated bathrooms. Landscaped yard and much much more!
Robert Scott 510-339-4000

By Appointment

OAKLAND \$595,000
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Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

IDORA PARK \$505,000
563 58th Street
Nice contemporary Spanish Mediterranean in Idora Park. Excellent split level floor plan. Plenty of storage. Large front and back yards. Possible in-law unit. A must see!
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

DANVILLE \$539,900
Everything has been done-newer carpeting, recently painted and meticulously maintained. 2 bedrooms plus computer room. View lot with open vistas. Crow Canyon Country Club at its finest!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

CLAYTON \$519,000
12 Welcome home to this single level, 3 bedrooms on a large private lot. Only 3 years new and within walking distance to town or just enjoy walking on your wrap-around front porch.
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OAKLAND \$500,000
Great value! Large main house with 4 BD/ 2.5 BA. Fireplace in LR, w/w carpet good floor plan. Sunroom off MBR with sep. entrance. Also a clean duplex with 1 BD/ 1 BA.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$499,000
Cul de Sac location. Quiet neighborhood. Front home is 2+BD/1.5 BA. Low pest report. Nice floor plan in both.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$469,000
Charming 4BD/ 2BA contemporary with spacious beautifully landscaped front yard surrounded by flagstone patios and mature shade trees. Perfect for indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Beautiful refinished hardwood floors on the main level, new paint thru-out. Detached 2-car garage plus off-street parking.
NahidNassiri.com 510-339-4550

CLAYTON \$399,000
12.66 acres of natural beauty. Enjoy nature on this hard-to-find large lot. Wooded hills and lots of trees with flowing creek. Build your dream home! 2 wells and septic approval.
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3 minutes to BART! 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with formal dining and large family room. Open, light floorplan with cathedral ceilings. New roof, new high-quality windows and doors, in great pristine condition. Delightful yard and deck. Pie-shaped lot with huge side yard.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$275,000
Cute bungalow in need of TLC. Quiet neighborhood. Eat in kitchen, laundry room, w/w carpets. Much potential. Vacant at close of escrow.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$259,000
Great opportunity for investor or first time home buyer! Large home on a huge lot in up and coming area! Close to transportation. Don't miss out!
Lila Owens 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$200,000
Cute starter home with expansion...Asking \$200,000. Don't miss the opportunity to own a home. 1 BD/ 1 BA with large yard. Freshly painted inside and out.
Don Oliva 510-339-4000

Income Property

OAKLAND \$400,000
Great investment property with 10 units. Freshly painted. Good upside potential.
Linda Oliva 510-339-4000

Rental

ROCKRIDGE \$1,000,000
For lease Rockridge with 10 units. SF. Charming traditional 3 BD/ 2 BA hardwood floors, sunny kitchen. Remodeled kitchen and bathroom. Attached garage, fenced yard.
Martha Shin 510-339-4000

Commercial

OAKLAND \$1,000,000
Gorgeous and classic building 8200 - square ft. of bar/restaurant space. space downstairs - 4000 sq. ft. office or residential space. heart of Oakland's Auto Row.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

See BSAL, Page 2

ON DECK

Prep boys basketball

■ **Berkeley at Mel Good Holiday Classic**, today and Saturday, Yuba City, TBA — The Yellow Jackets, who won the 2001 title, will be looking for another good showing in this year's tournament.

Prep girls basketball

■ **Berkeley, El Cerrito at Nike Tournament of Champions**, today and Saturday, Phoenix, TBA — The Yellow Jackets are in the Black Division and will face teams such as Brea-Olinda, Chandler of Arizona and La Jolla-Country Day, which is currently ranked 19th in the nation by USA Today. The Gauchos have strong teams such as Amador Valley and Marin Catholic in the Red Division.

Prep girls soccer

■ **Albany at Salesian**, 3:30 p.m. today — Both the Cougars and the Chieftains are trying to stay within striking range of Bay Shore Athletic League-leader Piedmont.

Stars of the week

■ **Marqueta Green**, El Cerrito girls basketball — Green achieved a rare

quadruple-double when she scored 14 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, passed for 10 assists and had 10 steals in El Cerrito's 91-30 win over Jesse Bethel-Vallejo. Green also had eight points, eight steals, five assists and five rebounds in the Gauchos' 56-53 overtime loss to Petaluma.

■ **Jason Hadley**, St. Mary's boys soccer — Hadley produced a hat trick in St. Mary's 3-3 tie with Berean Christian, then had an assist in the Panthers' 7-0 victory over John Swett.

■ **Megan Moss**, Albany girls soccer — Moss had one goal in both a 2-0 Albany win over Holy Names and a 2-1 loss to Piedmont.

■ **Kevin McGlothlen**, Berkeley boys basketball — McGlothlen had 14 points and a game-high 18 rebounds in the Yellow Jackets' 59-56 overtime loss to Skyline in the championship game of the Berkeley Classic.

■ **Brandon Hinchee**, Albany boys basketball — Hinchee had a game-high 26 points, including 12 points in the fourth quarter, and eight rebounds in the Cougars' 72-49 win over College Prep. He also had eight points in a 60-57 loss to Berean Christian.

ing at us and coming at us," Mariscal said. "That is a quality team."

Both Thompson and Mariscal point to tough nonleague schedules as a reason for their team's success. Encinal is 4-4-3 overall, and Pinole Valley is 3-3-1.

"When we played a couple teams from the San Ramon area, we learned what we weren't doing right and fixed those things. We steadily improved," Thompson said.

Roundup

FROM PAGE 1

half-time lead Tuesday on their way to a convincing nonleague win.

Eddie Izumizaki paced Albany with 16 points. Teammate Brandon Hinchee added 10 points. Alameda's Kyle Takahashi led all scorers with 20 points.

■ **Bishop Gorman-Las Vegas 53, St. Mary's 51**: A desperation 3-point shot attempt as time ran out by Larry Gurganious went off the backboard as the Panthers (5-3) lost in the third-place game of the Jesuit Tournament in Carmichael on Saturday.

With the game tied 51-51, Bishop Gorman scored the win-

ning basket after inbound the ball with four seconds left.

Gurganious finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds, and teammate Jordan Thurston had 11 points, including two 3-pointers, and eight rebounds. Both players were named to the all-tournament team.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

■ **El Cerrito 57, St. Patrick 33**: The host Gauchos took a 13-4 lead in the first quarter of this Tuesday nonleague game on their way to their third win in four games.

Jordan McCormick had a game-high 23 points and also pulled down 15 rebounds for El Cerrito (3-1).

■ **Forest Lake Christian-Auburn 58, Berkeley 57**: The Yellow Jack-

ets were outscored 23-19 in the fourth quarter by the Falcons to lose their game at the St. Mary's Shootout in Berkeley on Saturday.

Poor free throw shooting proved to be Berkeley's undoing as it missed 14 attempts in the first half and finished hitting just 10 of 27 from the line.

Brittany Moore led the Yellow Jackets with 13 points and teammate Andrea Keys added 12.

Brooke Hodges scored 18 points to lead Forest Lake Christian, which is ranked No. 1 in the state in Division V by calhsports.com. Berkeley is ranked No. 4 in Division I.

■ **Petaluma 56, El Cerrito 53**: Jordan McCormick scored 19 points and Ashley Jackson added 10, but it wasn't enough as the

Gauchos lost overtime at the Shootout in Berkeley. El Cerrito's quarterfinal loss to Forest Lake Christian was the first of its season. Marqueta Green's points had to be subtracted from the Gauchos' total to determine the winner. Retired player high 14 points, 11 rebounds, 11 assists for Rachel Gaudin and eight steals.

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

were not as satisfying as Lavdiotis hoped with the team compiling 2-4 record at the start of the week. Yet there were positives.

"They're playing well together. The team is starting to gel," he said.

SICK OF BEING SICK

Flato's injury was not the only hit to the Highlanders' lineup, Lavdiotis said.

Last week Philip Brown, Nick Lucas and Eddie Newland each came down with the flu. The three have recovered, but the growing flu epidemic has prompted Lavdiotis to leave con-

"He (Eric Flato) had to work hard (the points). He played fairly well. He feels like it wasn't a successful return. It was a tough adjustment and he tried to do too much. He's a tough competitor and he has to let the game come back to him."

--- Piedmont coach Chris Lavdiotis

stant reminders that his players have to adopt preventive measures to keep themselves as healthy as possible.

"They share the ball and the germs. We try to get them to wash their hands religiously and not put stuff in their mouth," he said. "We talk about nutrition a

lot. I want them to take care of themselves because the flu is as bad as it's ever been."

STILL ROLLING

The Salesian boys basketball team continued its hot start to boost its record to 6-1 to begin the week.

The Chieftains, after winning

the Jeremy Jack Invitational 9 at home, took their first road trip to Berkeley off a 62-61 victory.

David Smith led the Chieftains with 21 points in their three-pointers.

But the Chieftains' first stumble came later in a 45-40 loss to Salesian at home.

Salesian would not be long. On Dec. 12, the Cougars beat the Chieftains 60-40, ways beating Yuba, and then Vallejo 60-40.

In both games, the team in scoring, 18 points. In addition, 10 three-pointers in game span.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

Pinole Valley outshot Encinal 24-7 in the tie. Encinal took an early lead on a direct kick by Abraham, but Pinole Valley tied the score at the 55-minute mark on a Weeks goal.

"The second half started, and they pounded us. They kept com-

SCOREBOARD

Soccer

BOYS

ACCAL standings	W	L	T	Pts
Encinal	2	0	0	6
Richmond	2	0	0	6
Berkeley	2	1	0	6
Alameda	0	0	0	3
El Cerrito	1	1	0	3
Pinole Valley	0	1	0	0
De Anza	0	2	0	0
Hercules	0	3	0	0

Tuesday's results	W	L	T	Pts
El Cerrito 3, Hercules 1	0	1	1	3
Richmond 3, Berkeley 1	0	1	1	3
Alameda 5, De Anza 2	0	1	1	3
Encinal 5, Pinole Valley 1	0	1	1	3
Richmond 3, Berkeley 1	0	1	1	3

Berkeley	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	0	1	1	3
Richmond	0	1	1	3

Scoring: Abraham De los Santos (R) assisted by Juan DeLeon, 5:00; Gustavo Orozco (R) assisted by Juan Rodriguez, 19:00; Juan Carlos Cardenas (R) penalty kick, 35:00; Kamani Hill (B) penalty kick, 53:00. Saves: Alejandro Mercado (R) 7, Peter Calafio (B) 8. Records: Richmond 5-1, 2-0 ACCAL; Berkeley 8-2, 2-1.

El Cerrito 3, Hercules 1	W	L	T	Pts
El Cerrito	0	3	1	3
Hercules	1	0	1	3

Scoring: Oscar Gomez (H) assisted by Graham Goldberg, 0:00; David Galt (H) assisted by Spencer Selak, 2:30; Ball (EC) assisted by Selak, 55:00. Saves: Michael Gonzalez (EC) assisted by Selak, 72:00. Saves: Michael Gonzalez (EC) 1, Manuel Gomez (H) 2.

Records: El Cerrito 2-5-1, 1-1 ACCAL; Hercules 2-3, 0-3.

BSAL standings

Berkeley	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	3	0	1	9
St. Mary's	3	0	0	9
Kennedy	3	0	0	9
Albany	3	1	0	9
Salesian	2	0	0	6
Piedmont	1	3	0	3
St. Patrick	0	2	1	1
St. Elizabeth	0	3	1	1
St. Joseph	0	2	0	0
John Swett	0	4	0	0

St. Mary's 2, Albany 1	W	L	T	Pts
Albany	0	1	1	3
St. Mary's	1	1	2	3

Scoring: Jason Hadley (SM) assisted by Miles Hadley, 13:00; J. Hadley (SM) assisted by Luis Perez, 55:00. Saves: Spencer Dill (A) assisted by Jacob Meyers, 72:00. Saves: Chris Crovetti (A) 9, Danny Pizarro (SM) 6.

Records: St. Mary's 4-3, 2-0 BSAL; Albany 4-3-1, 1-1.

GIRLS

ACCAL standings	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	3	0	0	9
Encinal	2	0	1	7
Pinole Valley	2	0	1	7
El Cerrito	2	1	0	6
Alameda	0	2	1	1
De Anza	0	2	1	1
Hercules	0	2	1	1
Richmond	0	2	1	1

Tuesday's results	W	L	T	Pts
El Cerrito 9, Hercules 0	0	0	0	0
Berkeley 6, Richmond 0	0	0	0	0
Alameda 1, De Anza 1	0	0	0	0
Encinal 1, Pinole Valley 1	0	0	0	0
Berkeley 6, Richmond 0	0	0	0	0

Richmond	W	L	T	Pts
Richmond	0	0	0	0
Berkeley	0	0	0	0

Scoring: Dea Wallach assisted by Brittany Sims, 2:00. Sims assisted by Bullard, 7:00; Bullard assisted by 12:00; Bullard assisted by Sims, 14:00; Kyla Lew assisted by John Harris, 17:00. Sims assisted by Lew, 24:00; Bullard assisted by Lew, 45:00. Harris assisted by Stacy Tanaka, 66:00; Aria Link assisted by 74:00. Saves: Janya Jawad (EC) 4, Molly Baum (H) 8.

Records: El Cerrito 4-2, 2-1 ACCAL; Hercules 0-2-1 ACCAL.

Nonleague

Berkeley 2, Pittsburg 1	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	2	0	2	6
Pittsburg	0	1	1	1

Scoring: Harris Cohn (B) assisted by Karmali Hill, 18:00; Hill (B) assisted by Walter Torma, 25:00; Juan Pena (P) assisted by 62:00. Saves: Peter Catalfo (B) 3, Francisco Chico (P) 6.

Records: Berkeley 6-1, Pittsburg 4-4.

Antioch 4, El Cerrito 1

Antioch	W	L	T	Pts
Antioch	2	2	4	6
El Cerrito	0	1	1	1

Scoring: Marcos Hernandez (A) assisted by Jesus Martinez, 3:00; Matt Fish (A) assisted by Hernandez, 40:00; Eduardo Garcia (A) assisted by Pedro Parades, 53:00; Danny Schneider (A) penalty kick, 62:00; Spencer Selak (EC) penalty kick, 70:00. Saves: Janya Martinez (A) 3, Justin Syren (EC) 6, David Ball (EC) 9.

Records: Antioch 5-2-1, El Cerrito 1-3-1.

BSAL standings

Berkeley	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	5	0	0	15
Piedmont	3	0	0	9
Berean Chris	3	0	0	9
Salesian	3	1	0	9
Albany	3	1	0	9
St. Patrick	2	2	0	6
St. Joseph	2	2	0	6
St. Mary's	1	3	0	3
Holy Names	0	0	0	0

Wrestling

PREP

Nonleague	W	L	T	Pts
Albany 66, Mt. Eden 15	0	3	0	0
Albany	0	3	0	0
Mt. Eden	0	3	0	0

103 — Mark Anders (A) p. Kevin Costa, 5:05; 112 — Chris Roberts (MG) p. Daniel Simmel, 1:19; 119 — Bryan Botsford (MG) p. Caleb Kohn, 12:10; 125 — Patrick Skinner (A) p. Colston Jackson, 4:11; 130 — Steven Oye (A) p. Eric Vargas, 2:38; 135 — Jordan Degruy (NE) p. Nat Chachana, 5:00; 140 — Steven Presidal (A) p. Tommy Ngo, 2:48; 145 — Kofi Yaldom (A) p. Louis Munoz, 1:31; 152 — Sean Dudas (A) p. Eduardo Peraza, 2:00; 160 — Levi Shatts (A) p. Jorjall, 7:11 — Mike Grossman (A) p. James Delma, 3:19; 189 — Levi Parris (A) p. Angel Morill, 3:15; 215 — Nick Nichols (A) p. DeAndre Jackson, 4:44; 275 — Robbie Nichols (A) p. Jorjall.

Records: Albany 4-2.

Basketball

Jeremy Jack Invitational

Pool play

Hercules 78, Albany 41

HERCULES (3-0)

Tim Pierce 10 5-9 26, Devan Leach 0 0-0 0, Antonio Giondo 0 0-0 14, Mike Burton 1 0-0 2, Alex Chen 2 0-0 4, Andrew Smith 1 0-0 2, Gory Hinga 0 0-0 2, Andrew Walker 1 0-0 2, Moses Vey 8 1-6 18, Roddie Salinas 2 1-2 5, Chris Rodarte 0 0-0 0, Brandon Wile 1 1-4 3. Totals 78-41.

Yuen Cheng 0 0-0 0, Michael Aoyama 2 1-2 7, Irving McKnight 0 0-0 0, Jeremy Jennings 0 2-2 2, Jermayne Slaughter 1 0-0 2, Cory Hinga 0 0-0 0, Chris Aoyama 0 1-2 1, Eddie Izumizaki 3 1-2 7, Ben Goldson 0 0-0 0, Brandon Hinchee 12 0-0 24, DeAndre Jackson 1 1-2 3, Nick Goldson 5 0-0 10, Totals 78-41.

Hercules	W	L	T	Pts
Hercules	17	15	27	78
Albany	8	13	10	41

3-point goals: Gooden 4, Pierce, Keys, Wallace. Fouled out: Leach. Technical: Leach.

Highlights: 1 — Pierce 10 rebounds, Keys 9 rebounds. A — Ratz 7 rebounds.

Jeremy Jack Invitational Tournament

Pool play

Albany 61, Emery 59

ALBANY (1-1)

Yuan Cheng 0 0-0 0, Michael Aoyama 2 1-2 7, Irving McKnight 2 0-1 4, Jeremy Jennings 2 0-0 5, Jermayne Slaughter 0 0-0 0, Cory Hinga 0 0-0 0, Chris Aoyama 0 1-2 1, Eddie Izumizaki 3 1-2 7, Ben Goldson 0 0-0 0, Brandon Hinchee 12 0-0 24, DeAndre Jackson 1 1-2 3, Nick Goldson 5 0-0 10, Totals 61-59.

Andrew Peacock 9 1-2 22, Lee Banks 4 0-0 9, Josh Kennedy 2 0-0 4, Shamir Owens 6 0-0 13, Troy Wright 1 0-0 2, Robert McGrudder 4 1-2 9, Totals 56-24-59.

Albany	W	L	T	Pts
Albany	17	10	17	61
Emery	11	7	10	59

3-point goals: Peacock 3, M. Aoyama 2, McKnight, Banks, Owens.

Hogan Tournament

First round

St. Mary's 78, Elsie Allen-Santa Rosa 67

AT Hogan HS, Vallejo

ST. MARY'S (2-0)

Jordan Thurston 3 2-8 10, Larry Gurganious 8 7-10 24, Gary McIntyre 0 0-2 8, Dominic Green 2 3-4 7, Brandon White 2 0-0 4, John Manente 2 3-4 9, Pino Rodriguez 1 0-0 2, Dom Calgini 1 2-2 5, Ed Wright 3 3-4 9. Totals 78-67.

26-20-32-76. ELSIE ALLEN Jackson 2 2-5 8, Cartegena 2 0-0 5, Leavy 7 2-7 17, Martinez 3 2-2 8, Keith 2 0-0 5, Giammona 5 2-2 22, Brian 2 0-0 4, Becker 0 0-0 0, Francoche 0 0-0 0. Totals 67-78.

St. Mary's	W	L	T	Pts
St. Mary's	12	16	23	63
Albany	9	12	10	56

3-point goals: Thompson 2, White, Carter. Fouled out: Darnell. Technical: 2. Highlights: SM — Sneed 14 rebounds.

Third round

Mission Bay-San Diego 39, St. Mary's 37

At La Jolla Country Day HS, La Jolla

St. Mary's	W	L	T	Pts
St. Mary's	12	16	23	63
Albany	9	12	10	56

3-point goals: Thompson 2, White, Carter. Fouled out: Darnell. Technical: 2. Highlights: SM — Sneed 14 rebounds.

3-point goals: Thompson 2, White, Carter. Fouled out: Darnell. Technical: 2. Highlights: SM — Sneed 14 rebounds.

3-point goals: Thompson 2, White, Carter. Fouled out: Darnell. Technical: 2. Highlights: SM — Sneed 14 rebounds.

3-point goals: Thompson 2, White, Carter. Fouled out: Darnell. Technical: 2. Highlights: SM — Sneed 14 rebounds.

Marin Catholic Tournament

Piedmont 71, Berkeley 54

BERKELEY (3-1)

Ben Berle-Stephens 1 0-0 2, Ladonna Tolbert 1 0-0 2, Joy White 4 0-0 2, Brittany Moore 5 2-4 14, Shava James 3 0-0 6, Amber Cox 1 4-5 6, Brittany Murtas 3 3-5 9, Alexandra Mitchell 1 3-5 5, Kelly Griffin 0 0-0 0, Tamara Johnson 0 0-0 0. Totals 71-54.

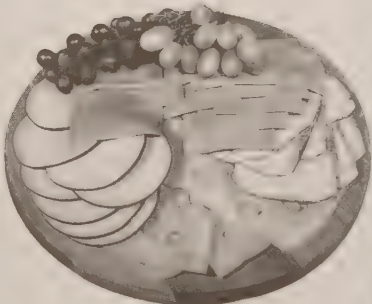
Piedmont 71-54. Courtney Parris 11 4-8 26, Ashley Parris 6 4-6 18, Logan Parris 3 0-0 6, Jennifer Duan 1 0-0 2, Ann Cragle 5 0-0 13, Jocelyn Woolsey 3 0-0 6, Katy Salter 0 0-0 0, Anika Boyce 1 0-0 2. Totals 71-54.

3-point goals: White 2, Moore 2, Crangle 3. Highlights: P — C. Parris 21 rebounds, 6 blocks; A — Pans 10 rebounds

a Smile 11.1 45.4 30.7 15

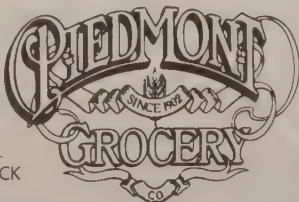
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

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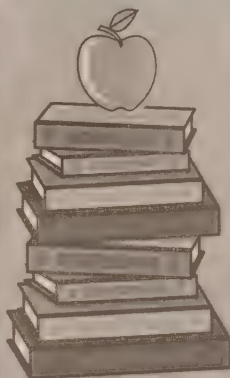
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Events

STAGE

ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH — "Black Nativity" by Langston Hughes, closing Dec. 21. A soulful rendition of the Christmas story, with gospel singing and dancing.

\$15 general; \$8 seniors, students age 12 and older; \$5 children age 5 and older, free for children under age 5. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 6 p.m. 8501 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-544-8910.

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY — "Lobby Hero" by Kenneth Lonergan, closing Dec. 21. When a murder is committed, a hapless security guard wants to do the right thing but can't figure out what that is.

\$34 to \$40. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822 or www.auroratheatre.org.

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — "Continental Divide: Mothers Against" and "Daughters of the Revolution" by David Edgar, closing Dec. 28. A two-play cycle examining both sides of a gubernatorial campaign, with candidates forced to take stances on controversial issues and a new focus on Latino votes. The plays can be seen in either order.

"Mothers Against": Dec. 21, Dec. 27, 2 p.m.; Dec. 20, Dec. 26, 8 p.m.; Dec. 28, 7 p.m.

"Daughters of the Revolution": Dec. 21, 7 p.m.; Dec. 19, Dec. 23, Dec. 27, 8 p.m.; Dec. 20, Dec. 28, 2 p.m.

\$43 to \$55. Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-847-2949, 888-48RTX or www.berkeleyrep.org.

"CHRISTMAS REVELS" — closing Dec. 21. An annual celebration of the Winter Solstice set in the times of Queen Elizabeth, this production of dance theatre features dancers, actors, children, a chorus and several ensembles and singers which come together to perform a "nine days wonder."

\$17 to \$35. Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, 415-621-1216 or www.cal-revels.org.

CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE DRAMA DEPARTMENT — "A Christmas Carol," through Dec. 21. A holiday classic, adapted from the story by Charles Dickens by Kelly Ground and directed by Clay David. \$10 general; \$7 students and seniors; \$5 children under age 12. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. John and Jean Knox Center for the Performing Arts, Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo, 510-235-7800 or www.contracosta.edu.

GLENNVIEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER — "Twas the Night Before Christmas," closing Dec. 21. St. Nick and a cast of whimsical characters go on a joyous holiday journey. The show features a magical growing tree of 10,000 lights and indoor snowfall. Mrs. Claus will serve up special treats available for purchase.

\$17. Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. 1318 Glenview Ave., Oakland 510-531-0511.

KIDS TAKE THE STAGE — "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl, through Dec. 21. Charlie finds a special ticket that changes his life when it gets him a tour of the mysterious chocolate factory with lots of surprises. Dec. 20 and Dec. 21, 7 p.m.; Encinal High School Theater, 210 Central Ave., Alameda.

\$10 general; \$8 children age 6 to 11; \$5 children age 2 to 5; free children under age 2. 510-864-7061 or www.kidstakestage.com.

OAKLAND BOX THEATRE — "The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open mic poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to get to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team.

\$10. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

SHOTGUN PLAYERS — "The Death of Meyerhold" by Mark Jackson, closing Dec. 28. The life story of a Russian playwright who was vocal and brash when he lived in a world of riots and political unrest, but was left ambiguous and strangely silent in death.

Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, \$18 general; \$12 students; \$10 Thursdays.

THEATRE LAB — "Heavy Days," closing Dec. 19. A collaborative ensemble performance about four women who resist and succumb to the madness of everyday rituals, creating an abstract, whimsical performance. Dec. 15, Dec. 16, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, 8 p.m. At La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid St. \$10.

\$10-704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org.

WILDE IRISH PRODUCTIONS — "Endgame" by Samuel Beckett, closing Dec. 21. A poetic exploration of

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BRANCHING OUT By ELIZABETH C. GORSKI / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Creepy sort, for short

5 View from a lighthouse

8 Lobster — diavolo

11 Pit stop can

14 Fountain treat

18 Native Nebraskan

19 Antiapartheid org.

20 Scale notes

21 Onassis, in tabloids

22 Skating star Kulik

23 "it the truth!"

24 Oxford, for one: Abbr.

25 Phone no. add-on

26 Magazine article

27 Helpful retreats

28 Sandy tract, in Britain

29 Movie cowboy Lash —

31 "Halt!" to a salt

33 What that isn't

34 Mortimer, a real dummy

36 Maximally chi-chi

39 No longer stops

41 Tuckered out

42 Airport city near Montreal

44 Rover and Tabby, e.g.

46 Tiny Tim played it

47 Scrooge overcame this

48 Get-up

49 Software program, briefly

51 Sermon subject

53 Cozy retreat

54 Noodlehead

56 N.F.C. gridder

57 Lush

59 Diets

62 Attach with laces

63 Gift exchange requirement: Abbr.

65 Not an orig.

66 Undeclared

67 It's heard in Islamabad

68 Kind of date

69 —, Mère-Église, France

71 Abu — Bay, site of Horatio Nelson's naval victory, 1798

73 "The Gift of the Magi," e.g.

74 Sgt. and sgt. maj.

75 Done, to Donne

76 Rainbow

77 Itinerary abbr.

78 Allure competitor

79 King in a 1978 pop hit

80 Pudding ingredient

81 Antique auto

82 Directly across from: Abbr.

84 Spearheaded

85 Sound from a wok

86 Hurrah for El Faruco

87 Leg bone

89 Hide-hair link

90 Timeline info: Abbr.

91 Salute

92 Starting Harvard law students

93 Without exception, after "to"

95 Choir practice

97 Croupiers' tools

98 "Leave me alone!"

101 Colors in cave paintings

102 Bourbon and others: Abbr.

103 "Law & Order" type: Abbr.

105 "Nobody's Fool" star Paul

107 Window item

108 Skater Midori

109 Satisfied

111 One with a thick skin

112 Ballet leap

113 Seasonal air that celebrates this puzzle's theme

118 Carbon compound

119 Love symbol

120 Not give a definite answer

121 Huge win

122 Beach shades

123 Western-themed films

124 Art Deco designer

DOWN

1 Fills

2 Stephen, in France

3 With 15-Down, what to do to reveal this puzzle's theme

4 Subject to external controls

5 Satirist Mort

6 How lemmings move

7 It's often squirreled away

8 Succumb to stage fright

9 Name fit for a king?

10 Dancing siblings

11 Big stories

12 "Would I lie?"

13 Amount of eggnog

14 Both the subtitles, maybe

15 See 3-Down

16 Is a go-between

17 Fringe material

30 Motor City org.

32 "O, —"

35 Chinese zodiac sign

37 Drummer Starkey, Ringo's son

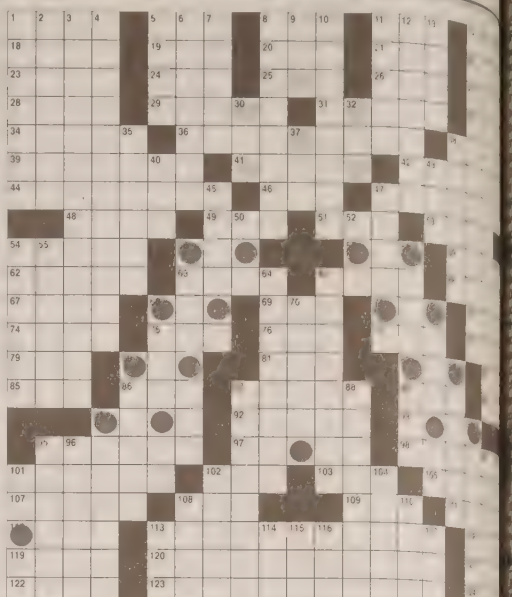
38 English poet Dowson

40 Tour de France units: Abbr.

43 "At Seventeen" singer Janis

45 It holds one cup

47 Alphabet sextet



50 Narc's find, for short

52 British verb ending

54 Evel doings?

55 Ring setting

56 Noted family of Flemish painters

58 Like some chords

60 One whose job is a grind?

61 War horses

64 Winter Palace residents

65 Sprang back

68 Linen closet stack

70 Game show host who was once a CBC newsmen

72 Car tower

80 Gave birth, as on a ranch

83 "God bless us every one," e.g.

87 Trattoria desserts

88 Rally

91 It will hold your horses

94 The boonies

95 White of the eye

96 Ancient Greek tunic

99 Key of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2

100 Disperse

101 Antiquaire's item

102 Brenda of the comics

104 Congo

106 Nat of "Out"

108 Stick

110

113

114

115

116

117

the nature of the human condition. The players communicate in answering echoes of heartbreak and longing and loss.

\$10 to \$20. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7287 or 510-644-9940

POPULAR MUSIC

ASHKENAZ — Palenque, Dec. 19, 9 p.m. \$13.

MIKEY DREAD, Dec. 20, 9:30 p.m. \$16 to \$18.

CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS AND PAN EXSTASY, Dec. 26, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

SURCO NUEVO, Dec. 27, 9 p.m. \$13.

FIREPROOF, THE PEOPLE, Dec. 28, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

1317 SAN PABLO AVENUE, BERKELEY, 510-525-0505 or www.ashkenaz.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Seventy, Dec. 19.

NICOLE McRORY, Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.

NICOLE and the Soul Sisters, Dec. 24.

STERLING DAVISH, Dec. 26.

Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2271 SHATTUCK AVE., BERKELEY, 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Dynamic, Freeway Planet, Bambu, Dec. 19 \$6.

Angel of Thorns, Hidden Tracks, Truck-asaurus Sex, Dec. 20, \$5.

Oka Road, The Latrells, Melissa Rapp Band, Dec. 21, \$3.

Ellempop, Feenom Circle, FourOneFunk, Dec. 26, \$7.

Through Walls, Thriving Ivory, Driveline, Dec. 27, \$6.

Acoustic Wednesday with Mikie Lee Prasad and guests, Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Free.

The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays, \$4.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com.

DOWNTOWN — Julie Kelly, Dec. 19.

Sylvia and the Silvertones, Dec. 20.

Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Dec. 23.

Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, Dec. 24.

Kenji El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, Dec. 25.

Frank Jackson, Dec. 26.

Spencer Day, Dec. 27.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday at 8

p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Hot Buttered Rum String Band, Dec. 19.

\$15.50 to \$16.50.

Tom Rush, Dec. 20, \$20.50 to \$21.50.

"Laurie Lewis's Holiday Revue and Freight Fundraiser", Dec. 21. Also featuring Tom Rozum, Earl White, Cascada de Flores, Tony Marcus and Patrice Haan. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Kammen and Swan, Dec. 27. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Dec. 28. \$20.50 to \$21.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761, 866-468-3399 or www.freightandsalvage.org.

JAZZ HOUSE — Millicent Wood, Dec. 19, \$10.

"Holiday Bluegrass Celebration: David Thom and Homespun Rowdy", Dec. 20, 4 p.m. \$8 to \$15.

Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley, 415-846-9432 or www.thejazzhouse.org.

KIMBALLS EAST — Pamela Williams, Dec. 19 and Dec. 20, \$28.

Tito Jackson and Brothers Band, Dec. 26 and Dec. 27, \$28.

Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Avotcja and Modupue, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. \$12.

Jackeline Rago and the Venezuelan Music Project, Dec. 20, 8:30 p.m. \$12 to \$14.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org.

MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB — "Sea Chanties and Songs of the Waterways," Tuesday, 8 p.m. Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-552-6263 or [www.mcgrathsp](http://www.mcgrathspub.com)

ents

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WILLOW PUB — Let's Go Aggroes, Soul Captives. 7th Direction, Dec. 28, 8 p.m. and over unless otherwise noted. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510-841-1174 or www.storkcluboak.com

Charlie Hunter Trio, through Dec. 22, 8 p.m. and Dec. 23, 5 p.m. Christmas, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. and Dec. 25, 8 p.m. with Joey De-... and Fred Wesley, Dec. 26, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510-841-1174 or www.yoshis.com

MUSICAL MUSIC

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHES-... "A Bach Christmas," Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant avenues, Berkeley. Tickets are \$29 to \$60. For tickets or details call 415-392-4400 or visit www.cityboxoffice.com.

OAKLAND BALLET — "All Star Night and Community Night at the Ballet," Dec. 19, 7 p.m. The 17th annual event features Bay Area sports and media celebrities in roles on stage with the dancers. \$20.

"Nutcracker," Dec. 20 through Dec. 23. A two-act version of Tchaikovsky's holiday fantasy that begins at Clara's Victorian party and follows her on a dreamy, magical journey to the Land of the Sweets with the nutcracker her grandfather gives her. Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, 2 p.m. \$10 to \$55. Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-625-8497 or www.oaklandballet.org.

STARREY FLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Cail," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance. "The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale. For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 8 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

OUTDOORS
BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS — A network



PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA performs "A Bach Christmas," Christmas and holiday music by J.S. Bach, Saturday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant avenues, Berkeley. Tickets are \$29 to \$60. For tickets or details call 415-392-4400 or visit www.cityboxoffice.com.

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OUTDOORS
BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS — A network

of trails converted from unused railway corridors.

OHLONE GREENWAY — A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway. Suitable for strollers and skaters. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Colton and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley. 510-215-4382, 510-528-5759 or 510-644-6566.

SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL — A 3-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line. The tree-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medau Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. 510-238-7275.

CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER — CLOSED THROUGH FEB. 28

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and

See EVENTS, Page C8

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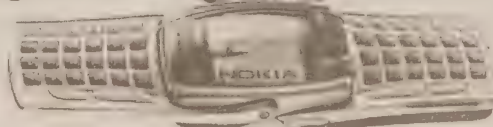
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THE BERKELEY VOICE

HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Events

FROM PAGE C7

lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"HOLIDAYS AT DUNSMUIR" — through Dec. 21. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays with a tree in every room as well as with garlands, wreaths and other appropriately elegant turn-of-the-century decorations. Docents will lead visitors on guided tours through the Mansion's many rooms and floors. See the beautiful Tiffany skylight, the wood-paneled Billiard Room, the Grand Staircase and the magnificent dining room. Wear low-heeled, soft-soled shoes. No high heels allowed in the Mansion. In addition, the grounds will be open for strolling and there will be carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides for hire, craft booths, children's activities and visits from Father Christmas. Holiday teas and luncheons will be available for an additional fee. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$11 to \$15 general; \$10 to \$14 seniors; \$7 to \$11 youths. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

HOLIDAY TEAS AND LUNCHEONS — Children's Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 11:15 a.m. Reservations required. \$23 general; \$16 per child. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

Adult Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$23 general. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

Luncheons: In the garden Pavilion. Saturday and Sunday, noon. \$20 per person. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

ESTATE GROUNDS — through December. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds. Tour booklets are available at Dinkelspiel House. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-815-5555.

KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees.

\$4 parking. Through February: daily, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. 510-223-7840 or www.ebparks.org

OAKLAND ZOO — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna" with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees

and more than 330 other animals from around the world. "Simba Por," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Samang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

EXHIBIT — "Mountain Lions!" ongoing. An exhibit designed to educate people about the mountain lion, its habitat, physiology, history in California, and myths that surround these mammals. In addition there is a film titled "Cougar: Elusive Predator" by the Discovery Channel in the Children's Theater. At the Education Center. Open daily during Zoo hours. Free with regular Zoo admission.

SPECIAL EVENT — "ZooLights," through Jan. 3. The annual holiday light display. See the Oakland Zoo turned into an exotic winter wonderland after dark with 200,000 twinkling lights, offering the Bay Area's largest holiday lights display. Stroll or ride the train through this magical display. Weather permitting, nightly 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; CLOSED DEC. 24, DEC. 25 AND DEC. 31. \$5 to \$6.50 general; \$4 to \$5 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2.

\$7.50 general; \$4.50 seniors and children ages 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 3777 Golf Links Road, exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

USS POTOMAC — The 165-foot presidential yacht USS Potomac was called the "Floating White House" when it was refurbished at the beginning of World War II for use by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The yacht has been restored to its World War II splendor and visitors may see it docked at the foot of Clay Street. The USS Potomac offers both dockside tours of the ship and two-hour narrated history cruises on Saturdays in August and September.

DOCKSIDE TOURS — The tour takes about an hour and discusses how FDR used the ship. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. \$5 general; \$3 seniors; free youths age 18 and under.

USS Potomac: FDR Pier, Foot of Clay Street, northwest end of Jack London Square, Oakland. Potomac Visitor Center: 540 Water St., Oakland. 510-627-1502 or www.usspotomac.org

ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA — Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock



Come hear the music play

KELLY'S OF ALAMEDA will present an evening of holiday cabaret with Shawn Ryan and friends at 8 p.m. Dec. 22. Ryan has appeared in cabaret venues throughout California, and also has started an acting career, appearing in "American Pie 3," "The Job," and the upcoming "First Daughter" with Michael Keaton. Also performing with him at Kelly's will be Kelly Park, Andre Higgins, the Diva Duo, The Kitchenettes, Shaynee Rainbolt and Corrie Borris. There is no cover charge for the show but reservations are recommended. Kelly's is located at 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1011.

here
Free. Skyline Boulevard, 1/2 mile north of Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE — East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills.

"Sunrise at Sibley — A New Day and New Year," Dec. 28, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Watch the sun rise and explore the preserve to learn about its mysteries. Bring a breakfast snack to share. Rain cancels.

"Splendor of Sibley," Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A short program about the volcanic park, focusing on the natural and cultural significance of the park.

Free. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — NATURE AREA — "Cozy Fireside Stories," Dec. 20, noon to 1 p.m. Snuggle up in the firewell and listen to Native American tales about animals in winter.

"Winter Solstice Early AM Hike/Breakfast," Dec. 21, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Start with beverages and buns and a brief cultural history of the solstice. Take a

hike to see nature in action on the shortest day of the year. Finish with a smorgasbord and music. Registration required. \$5 to \$7.

"Dickens' Carol and Customs," Dec. 21, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A "do-it-yourself" Dickens reading and dance at Fezziwig's Ball. There will be refreshments and a talk about the cultural history of the season. Registration required. \$5 to \$7.

"Harry Potter's Pedigree," Dec. 28, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about genetics by making a family tree for Harry and Hermione, and then discover traits in your own family.

"The Science of 'All-Flavor Beans,'" Dec. 28, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about taste, make a map of your tongue and play "Nose Knows," then go home with a blue tongue.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANICAL GARDEN — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day: most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Free unless noted otherwise. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-525-2233 or www.ebparks.org

UC BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

"Sick Plant Clinic," first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. UC plant pathology and entomology experts will diagnose what ails plants. Free.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children ages 3 to 18; free on Thursday. Through Memorial Day: daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 510-643-2755 or <http://botanical.garden.berkeley.edu>

EXHIBITS

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OPERATIVE (ACCI) GALLERY — "Peace on Earth," closing Dec. 24. An exhibit of works for the holidays by ACCI members.

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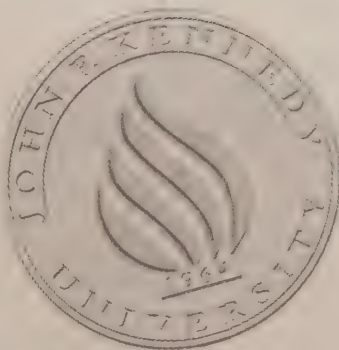
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Events

PAGE C8

1994. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Cafe, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

PRO ARTS — "June Annual 2003-04." Through Jan. 24. A competitive exhibition of works by Pro Arts members working in various media.

Artist Talks, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.

Free. Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pro Arts Gallery, 461 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-763-4361 or www.proartsgallery.org.

UC BERKELEY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM — "Our Daily Bread," through Jan. 20. An exhibit of photographs showing daily life in Israel by Micha Bar-Am.

Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Center for Photography, 121 North Gate Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley. 510-642-3383.

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Walls of Heritage/Walls of Pride: African American Murals," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of historical and contemporary murals created by African American artists from around the country. The exhibit features 52 photos of murals and 20 original works related to murals.

"The Long Walk to Freedom," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of photographs, archival material, videos and writings highlighting the contributions of 12 civil rights activists who changed the face of the nation.

"Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings

and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0210 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

ALAMEDA MUSEUM — The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.

Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org.

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. 510-763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM — through Dec. 28. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Cover-

ing some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N-scale layout showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. In addition the layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass, and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. For December, the trains and layouts will be decorated for the holidays.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; \$7 family maximum; free to all Saturday, Sunday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900 Dornan Drive, Point Richmond. 510-234-4884 or www.gsrm.org.

HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historic artists.

"Brought to Light: The Stoned Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum," through April 25. An exhibit that includes 130 objects drawn from the museum's archives, library and collections. Works featured include a recovered Torah Ark from the Queen Mary ocean liner, documents from the Spanish Inquisition, a drawing by Albert Einstein and works by Marc Chagall.

Free. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950 or www.magnes.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — CLOSED THROUGH JAN. 12.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," through March 14. An exhibit of 80 works created by the West Coast artist between 1972 and 2002 including four large-scale installations, 30 sculptures and 47 two-dimensional pieces.

"The Art of Fred Martin: A Retrospective, 1948-2003," closing Dec. 28. An exhibit of paintings on board, paper and canvas that spans 50 years and includes 135 works by painter, teacher and writer Fred Martin.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collec-

tion on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

SPECIAL EVENT — "WinterFest: Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Hanukkah and Other Family Traditions," Dec. 21, noon to 4 p.m. An opportunity to learn about the winter traditions of Bay Area families, share traditions and learn about diverse communities. There will be Kwanzaa storytelling and dance, Las Posadas processions and piñata breaking, Hanukkah stories and latkes, and the making of candles and holiday ornaments. Free with admission.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; CLOSED DEC. 25 AND 26. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200 or www.museumca.org.

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM — The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended.

See EVENTS, Page C11

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'Mona Lisa' fails to sell its inspirational theme

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

The 1950s-era "Mona Lisa Smile" falls within the parameters of the inspiration-in-academia genre, like "Dead Poets Society" or "To Sir, With Love," but it offers only a tepid sort of inspiration. Although the movie touts the beginnings of the feminist movement, today's woman is unlikely to leave the movie feeling any braving urges. More likely she'll want to know where she can get some fabulous vintage jewelry and clothes like those worn by the movie's star, Julia Roberts.

Roberts plays Katherine Watson, a young art history professor from California who, in the fall of 1953, has just realized her great career ambition to teach at Wellesley College.

But apparently Katherine hasn't done much research on the place. Not long after she alights from her train, blooming with bohemian idealism, she discovers to her dismay that Wellesley is not an academic mecca. It's full of stuck-up smartie-pants on the fast track to getting their M.R.S. degrees. They parrot the textbook and treat her as if she were the incompetent upstairs maid.

The administration is made up of even bigger snobs, and the other professors seem like a bunch of spineless dillards, uninterested in challenging either their students or the status quo. Even "the resident hottie, Italian professor Bill Dunbar (Dominic West), doesn't take chances. Moreover, in this college town, it's tough to find a boardinghouse where gentlemen callers are allowed to visit. It's all so dreary, Katherine looks as though she'd like to turn on her heel and run back to the wilder West.

Instead, she soldiers on. She tosses out the established syllabus, takes the girls on field trips to New York studios to see Jackson Pollock paintings up close, and willingly answers their questions about her unusual lifestyle. Mostly, they want to know why she's not married. Her answer, like the movie, is mild and nonthreatening, far from strident. It's not that she would feel held back by marriage and children, but that she has not yet felt the urge to settle down. Nor has she met the right person.

In contrast, a number of her students, like the prim and sanctimonious Betty (Kirsten Dunst) or her patrician best buddy Joan (Julia Stiles), are already engaged or about to be. The lone dumpy gal in the group, Constance (Ginnifer Goodwin), is dying to find a man. Initially, only the saucy, sexy Giselle (Maggie Gyllenhaal), who possesses — egads! — a di-



IDEALISTIC KATHERINE WATSON (Julia Roberts, above, right, seated left) is disappointed when she discovers her students' (including Julia Stiles, seated left and above left) main objective is to find husbands in "Mona Lisa Smile."



REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "Mona Lisa Smile"
- **STARRING:** Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ginnifer Goodwin, Marcia Gay Harden
- **RATING:** PG-13 (sexual content, thematic issues)
- **GRADE:** C+

aphragm, finds Professor Watson's lifestyle appealing in the slightest.

But Katherine grows on them, of course, as any Julia Roberts character does. The movie, which was directed by Mike Newell passes by pleasantly, if not particularly eventfully, in a haze of tweeds, sweaters and late-night confabs in pajamas. Writers Lawrence Konner and Mark Rosenthal have spared us many of the clichés of girls-at-school movies: no abortions or wrist-slashing, although there are some fine examples of girl-on-girl cruelty.

We, in turn, grow rather fond of many of Katherine's charges, especially the lovable Constance and Giselle, who seems at times

a sad, needy girl (she's hung up over the roughish Italian professor, who has eyes only for Katherine), but shows unexpected compassion and depth later in the film. Katherine's housemate, the fussy etiquette teacher Nancy (Marcia Gay Harden, in her third strong supporting role of the year), is also rather a dear.

But having sketched out these characters for us, the film doesn't do enough with them. Joan remains a puzzle, Dunst can't sell us the shrewish Betty's change of heart, and the script deserts Constance and Nancy. Nor is there much evidence that Katherine has made anything but a small difference in the Wellesley women's lives. A voice-over might tell us so, but there's no great dramatic moment to convince us.

As for Katherine, there's an intriguing hint at her psyche from the Italian professor, but it's never followed up on. By the time we say goodbye to her and that gorgeous, un-Mona Lisa-like grin, we're still not sure that she could start any trend but a mad dash for turquoise earrings.

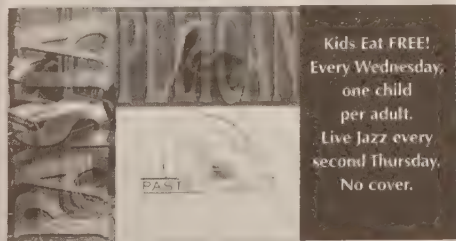


GINNIFER GOODWIN plays Connie Baker, one of the students at Wellesley College

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Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Bar Hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

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Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standards. Light fare such as the Gemüsesirudel (Vegetable Strudel with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Spinach. Served in a Carrot Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemütlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemütlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Strictly German, The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Pannini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entrée items. Sunday Brunch is to die for! 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun. W, \$-\$\$\$; AC, FB, RR

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fighting in Iraq.

"Navy Fighter and Attack Squadrons," ongoing. This exhibit provides the historical background for the historical planes on the ship.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck then let them try the signals themselves. Times vary. Free with admission.

Protestant Divine Services, Sundays, 11 a.m. Horner Chaplain John Berger conducts church services aboard the Hornet in the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served immediately following the service.

"Limited Access Day," Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Due to ship maintenance, tours of the navigation bridge and the engine room are not available. \$5

\$12 general; \$10 seniors, students and military, active or inactive; \$5 youths age 5 to 18, free children under age 5 with a paying adult. Monday and Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., limited access as ship maintenance is being performed. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-521-8448 or www.uss-hornet.org.

GENERAL

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility uniting all science education activities around astronomy.

GALLERIES AND EXHIBITS — "Mars Encounter," ongoing. This hands-on exhibit is designed to show what the planet Mars is like. Included is a four-foot tactile Mars globe, complete with craters and canals, a Martian meteorite, a Martian Sci-Fi theater, a Mars Mission Control where visitors can find out about current and past missions; a Mars quiz game; a virtual vacation on Mars; and a play area for the younger crowd.

"Skywise," ongoing. An exhibit of astronomy comic strips that provides an entertaining and informative vehicle for discovering and understanding astronomical phenomena.

"Moon Mystery," ongoing. See an ancient piece of the Moon up close. This 3.3 billion-year-old moon rock offers clues to the early history of earth and our Solar System.

"The Human Body Exhibit," ongoing. This is a 500-square-foot exhibit that offers a variety of hands-on activities as well as displays on tomography, x-ray and hearing. In addition there is a computer fly-through of 3D representations of human anatomy. The exhibit coordinates with the film "The Human Body." In the Tien Megadome Theater lobby.

"Our Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technologies and featuring the Hologlobe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Planetary Landscapes: Sculpting the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a room of swirling atmospheres, bubbling calderas, and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

"Astronomy in California 1850-1950: Observatories, Telescope Makers and their Instruments," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history and Chabot Observatory's own 117-year history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Origin and Meaning of Meteorites," ongoing. A mural by artists Joy Day and B.E. Johnson, accompanied by a case of meteorite samples.

"Solar-B: See the Sun in a New Light," ongoing. Learn about the sometimes-temperamental behavior of the sun and the effects it has on earth through the Solar-B mission. Visit the Virtual Science Center to learn more about the Solar-B mission.

"Shadow Dance: Make An Eclipse," ongoing. Create different types of solar and lunar eclipses, activate sensors on the exhibit floor, and learn about eclipse myths, rituals and celebrations found in many world cultures. This multimedia exhibit changes with each visit.

"Zeiss Telescopes," ongoing. This traveling exhibit displays telescopes and other stargazing equipment from the noted German manufacturer. Also included is Chabot's Zeiss Universarium Starball in the Planetarium.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY MISSIONS — "Escape from the Red Planet," through Dec. 31. Become the crew of a doomed landing. The mission is to get the shuttle working again and into orbit before it is hit by the worst dust storm ever recorded on Mars. Participants will become critical members of a team working to complete the mission using math, science, teamwork, problem-solving, responsible decision-making and communication skills. Limited space so admitted on a first-come basis. Not for children under age 6; children age 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Dec. 26, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 children age 6 to 12. \$10-336-7355.

PACCT DISCOVERY MISSIONS — A monthly program. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For teams of adults and

children ages 11 and up. In this problem-solving Design, build and present a proposal to NASA for a STARDUST spacecraft, then conduct flight readiness tests and participate in a remote navigation simulation to see if your design is ready to launch. Then it is off to rendezvous with a comet. Bring a lunch. \$45 per team.

DISCOVERY LAB — This is a hands-on, open lab where all can inquire, experience and explore, and finally clean up when done.

Free with regular Center admission.

TELESCOPE MAKERS' WORKSHOP — A weekly workshop open to all ages in which a volunteer group will help people build their own telescopes. No experience necessary. All participants work at their own pace. Attendance weekly is not mandatory. Meetings are Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. No meetings on major holidays that fall on a Friday or on Memorial Day Weekend. 925-447-6837 or 510-339-9224.

2003 DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES — A series of monthly lectures featuring some of the finest speakers in science. A reception with refreshments follows the lecture. Reservations suggested. In the Tien Megadome Theater. 510-336-7373 or www.ticketweb.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Spotlight Flight!" through Dec. 31. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of manned flight with hands-on activities about the physics of flight, the history and future of flight, and the impact of flight on our everyday lives. Build airplane models, kites, parachutes and hot air balloons. Free with general admission. Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 26 and Dec. 29 through Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"Mervyn's Saturn Storytelling," through Dec. 21. Space-related stories for the younger crowd. For ages 7 and younger. Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Free with admission.

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Center Admission: \$11 general; \$8 seniors and youths age 4 to 12, free children age 3 and under. Planetarium or Megadome Theater: \$6 general; \$5 seniors and youths age 4 to 12, free children age 3 and under. Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE EXHIBITS — "Jelly Belly Presents Candy Unwrapped," through Jan. 4. Visit 17 interactive stations to learn about the science behind candy. Learn about taste buds on a giant tongue; suck sour candy as cameras catch reactions; and find out how insects can be delicious. Climb on a 'rock candy' mountain or find out what puff-puff and barfi are.

"Forces That Shape The Bay," ongoing. A science park that shows and explains why the San Francisco Bay is the way it is, with information on water erosion, plate tectonics and mountain building. You can ride earthquake simulators, set erosion in motion and look far out into the Bay with a powerful telescope from 110 feet above sea level. The center of the exhibit is a waterfall that demonstrates how water flows from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay and you can control where the water goes. There are also hands-on erosion tables and a 40-foot-long, six-foot-high, rock compression wall.

"The Amazing Maze," ongoing. In a 1,000 square foot area there is a maze of colorful, eight-foot-high plastic panels that will take you this way

See EVENTS, Page C12

GIVE THE ENTIRE MALL TO ONE AND ALL.

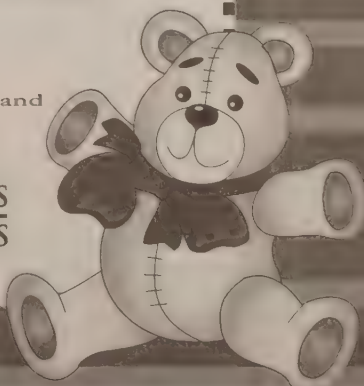
Hilltop Mall Gift Certificates are the perfect gifts. Especially when you consider that they're good at every store and never expire.

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Events

FROM PAGE C11

and that and challenge you to find a way out. For all ages.

"The Idea Lab," ongoing. Enter the domain of the research scientist and the inventor. This lab is an ongoing process with the intent of putting some of the building blocks of current UC Berkeley research in the hands of visitors, giving visitors a chance to observe, make predictions, interpret the evidence and draw conclusions. In Holt Hall.

"Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three-dimensional structures, make dodecahedron pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

"Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiences.

"YEA! Young Explorers Area," ongoing. LHS has a space just for young kids and preschoolers, with a puppet theater, blocks and structures to build and books to read.

"Gravity Wall," ongoing. Create your own vertical maze by inserting plastic cards into a slotted wall and then drop a ball from the top to the bottom.

"Math Around the World," ongoing. Enjoy math with a multicultural perspective.

ONGOING PROGRAMS — Free after museum admission.

Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and above; children under age 10 accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HOLT PLANETARIUM — Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted to any show except "Flying High" at 1 p.m. \$3 general; \$2.50 for ages 18 and under in addition to regular museum admission. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

"Constellations Tonight," Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations of the season on the planetarium sky. Keep the map and try to find the constellations in the real nighttime sky. For ages 6 and above.

"Flying High," Take an imaginary trip into space. Start by speeding through a whole day in the planetarium "time machine," and learning to identify the Big Dipper. Take off with the launch of a spaceship and learn how things move in space, how astronauts eat food in a weightless environment, and how satellites are put into orbit. For ages 4 to 7 and above.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "RSK Arts and Drumming Production," Dec. 26, noon and 1:30 p.m. Nigerian-born master drummers introduce visitors to the talking drum, as well as the music, costumes and movement of their native land.

"Insect Songs and Activities with Sandi and Steve," Dec. 27, noon and 1:15 p.m. A program of insect songs and hands-on activities.

"Flying Machines," Dec. 28, noon to 2 p.m. Try hands-on activities about flight and learn how kites fly and hot air balloons float.

\$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 5 to 18; \$4.50 children age 3 to 4; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley, 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY —

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND — EXHIBITS — "Walls of Heritage/Walls of Pride: African American Murals," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of historical and contemporary murals created by African American artists from around the country. The exhibit features 52 photos of murals and 20 original works related to murals.

"The Long Walk to Freedom," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of photographs, archival material, videos and writings highlighting the contributions of 12 civil rights activists who changed the face of the nation.

"Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California.

659 14th St. 510-637-0200.

MAIN LIBRARY — EXHIBIT — "Enduring Past, Anticipated Future: OPL at 125," through March 12. A special exhibit featuring 125 years of history including scrapbooks, photographs and vintage library artifacts.

BROOKFIELD BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9255 Edes Ave. 510-615-5275.

DIMOND BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

3565 Fruitvale Ave. 510-462-7844.

EASTMONT BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

7200 Bancroft Ave., Suite 211. 510-615-5276.

ELMHURST BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

1427 88th Ave. 510-615-5272.

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

5606 San Pablo Ave. 510-597-5023.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

6833 International Blvd. 510-615-5278.

MONTCLAIR BRANCH — "Preschool - Story-time," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

"Toddler Story-time," Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

1687 Mountain Blvd. 510-482-7810.

PIEDMONT BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 11 a.m. 160 41st St. 510-597-5011.

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," First and third Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. 5366 College Ave. 510-597-5017.

TEMESCAL BRANCH — "Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

5205 Telegraph Ave. 510-597-5049.

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH — "Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

"Stories, Songs and Fingerplays," Wednesday, 10 a.m.

1801 Adeline St. 510-597-5049.

Free. ALL BRANCHES CLOSED DEC. 24-26 Oakland. 510-238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — "Cozy Darkness, Winter Lights," Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. A family solstice celebration with music and activities. Bring an item for the "Solstice Sculpture," of something that sleeps or goes underground in winter, like teddy bears.

\$4 general; \$3 children. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE — CLOSED DEC. 22 THROUGH JAN. 15.

"Yasujiro Ozu: Filmmaker for All Seasons," through Dec. 21. A retrospective of the works of the Japanese director. Dec. 19, 7 p.m.; "Tokyo Twilight," Dec. 19, 9:40 p.m. "The Muneata Sisters," Dec. 20, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; "Good Morning," Dec. 20, 4 p.m. and 8:55 p.m.; "Late Autumn," Dec. 21, 2:30 p.m. and 7:35 p.m.; "Floating Weeds," Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m.; "The End of Summer," Single feature: \$8 adults; \$5 seniors, disabled persons, children age 12 and under; \$2 additional features. PFA Theater 25475 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-642-5295 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

TILDEN PARK — "Christmas Fantasy in the Woods," through Dec. 23. The Tilden Merry-Go-Round celebrates the holidays with rides, seasonal crafts and gifts, sweets and lights. The Merry-Go-Round and the park grounds have been transformed with lights, decorations and trees. Santa will visit on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Free admission. \$1 merry-go-round rides. Daily, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley, 510-524-6773 or www.ebparks.org.

CHRISTMAS AT BAY AREA HISTORIC HOME MUSEUMS — CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE — "Oh What a Beautiful Tree!" through Dec. 30. The Camron-Stanford House, a stately, 1876 Italianate-style home will be decked out with a 12-foot tree decorated with garlands and handmade cornucopias, antique ornaments, American flags and baskets of nuts as well as other festive Victorian decorations.

\$4 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 youths age 12 to 18; free children under age 12. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 14th Street and Lakeside Drive, Oakland. 510-444-1876.

COHEN-BRAY HOUSE — This Eastlake Stock-style Victorian was built in 1884 and has been occupied continuously by descendants of the original owner. It contains original wallpaper, carpets and furniture.

"Holiday Tea and Tour," Dec. 28, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Reservations required. \$25 general; \$20 youths age 17 and under.

1440 29th Ave., Oakland. 510-843-2906.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"HOLIDAYS AT DUNSMUIR" — through Dec. 21. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays with a tree in every room as well as with garlands, wreaths and other appropriately elegant turn-of-the-century decorations. Docents will lead visitors on guided tours through the Mansion's many rooms and floors. See the beautiful Tiffany skylight, the wood-paneled Billiard Room, the Grand Staircase and the magnificent dining room. Wear low-heeled, soft-soled shoes. No high heels allowed in the Mansion. In addition, the grounds will be open for strolling and there will be carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides for hire, craft booths, children's activities and visits from Father Christmas. Holiday teas and luncheons will be available for an additional fee. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$11 to \$15 general; \$10 to \$14 seniors; \$7 to \$11 youths. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org.

HOLIDAY TEAS AND LUNCHEONS — Children's Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 11:15 a.m. Reservations required. \$23 general; \$16 per child. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org.

Adult Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$23 general. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org.

Luncheons: In the garden Pavilion. Saturday and Sunday, noon. \$20 per person. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org.

ESTATE GROUNDS — through December. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds Tour booklets are available at Dinkelspiel House. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-615-5555.

MEYERS HOUSE AND GARDENS — This 1897 Colonial Revival home and gardens was built for East Bay architect Henry Meyers and his family. It is ornately furnished with many items original to the house.

\$5 per person. 2021 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-523-5907.

KID STUFF

BARNES AND NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's Book Area. The Friday reading is for preschoolers.

Free, Second Friday, 11 a.m.; Third Saturday, 1 p.m.; Second Sunday, 2 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-272-0120.

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY — CENTRAL LIBRARY — "Wind in the Willows: The Wild Woods," Dec. 22, 2 p.m. A performance by the Oakland Public Theater of the third chapter of the Kenneth Grahame book.

2090 Kittredge St. 510-981-6100.

CLAREMONT BRANCH — "Wind in the Willows: The Wild Woods," Dec. 30, 3 p.m. A performance by the Oakland Public Theater of the third chapter of the Kenneth Grahame book.

2940 Benvenue Ave. 510-981-6223 Berkeley. www.infopeople.org/bpl

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility uniting all science education activities around astronomy.

GALLERIES AND EXHIBITS — "Mars Encounter," ongoing. This hands-on exhibit is designed to show what the planet Mars is like. Included is a four-foot tactile Mars globe, complete with craters and canals; a Martian meteorite; a Martian Sci-Fi theater; a Mars Mission Control where visitors can find out about current and past missions; a Mars quiz game; a virtual vacation on Mars; and a play area for the younger crowd.

"Skyway," ongoing. An exhibit of astronomy comic strips that provides an entertaining and informative vehicle for discovering and understanding astronomical phenomena.

"Moon Mystery," ongoing. See an ancient piece of the Moon up close. This 3.3 billion-year-old moon rock offers clues to the early history of earth and our Solar System.

"The Human Body Exhibit," ongoing. This is a 500-square-foot exhibit that offers a variety of hands-on activities as well as displays on tomography, x-ray and hearing. In addition there is a computer fly-through of 3D representations of human anatomy. The exhibit coordinates with the film "The Human Body," in the Tien Megadome Theater lobby.

"Our Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technologies and featuring the Hologlobe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Planetary Landscapes: Sculpting the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a room of swirling atmospheres, bubbling calderas, and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

"Astronomy in California 1850-1950: Observatories, Telescope Makers and their Instruments," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history and Chabot Observatory's own 117-year history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Origin and Meaning of Meteorites," ongoing. A mural by artists Joy Day and B.E. Johnson, accompanied by a case of meteorite samples.

"Solar-B: See the Sun in a New Light," ongoing. Learn about the sometimes-temperamental behavior of the sun and the effects it has on earth through the Solar-B mission. Visit the Virtual Science Center to learn more about the Solar-B mission.

"Shadow Dance: Make An Eclipse," ongoing. Create different types of solar and lunar eclipses, activate sensors on the exhibit floor, and learn about eclipse myths, rituals and celebrations from 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"Zeiss Telescopes," ongoing. This traveling exhibit displays telescopes and other stargazing equipment from the noted German manufacturer. Also included is Chabot's Zeiss Universarium Starball in the Planetarium.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY MISSIONS — "Escape from the Red Planet," through Dec. 31. Become the crew of a doomed ship. The mission is to get the shuttle working again and into orbit before it is hit by the worst dust storm ever recorded on Mars. Participants will become critical members of a team working to complete the mission using math, science, teamwork, problem-solving, responsible decision-making and communication skills. Limited space so admitted on a first-come basis. Not for children under age 8; children age 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Dec. 26, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 children age 6 to 12. 510-336-7355.

PACCT DISCOVERY MISSIONS — A monthly program. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For teams of adults and children ages 11 and up. In this problem-solving Design, build and present a proposal to NASA for a STARDUST spacecraft, then conduct flight readiness tests and participate in a remote navigation simulation to see if your design is ready to launch. Then it is off to rendezvous with a comet. Bring a lunch. \$45 per team.

DISCOVERY LAB — This is a hands-on, open lab where all can inquire, experience and explore, and finally clean-up when done.

Free with regular Center admission. Tuesday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

TELESCOPE MAKERS' WORKSHOP — A weekly workshop open to all ages, in which a volunteer group will help people build their own telescopes. No experience necessary. All participants work at their own pace. Attendance weekly is not mandatory. Meetings are Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. No meetings on major holidays that fall on a Friday



Jonesin' for Indiana?

SO WHAT IF THE WHOLE darn series just came out on DVD? Sometimes, you've just got to see it. The Indiana Jones movie on the big screen in a big room with a big crowd giving Indiana Jones the treatment you're in that camp, the Chabot Space & Science Center is offering up an Indiana Jones movie tonight through Jan. 3, featuring "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (today and Saturday) and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (Dec. 26 and 27) and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (Dec. 28 and 29). Screenings are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Chabot Science Center, 1000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. Tickets are \$12. Contact 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org.

or on Memorial Day Weekend. 925-447-6837 or 510-339-9224.

2003 DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES — A series of monthly lectures featuring some of the finest speakers in science. A reception with refreshments follows the lecture. Reservations suggested. In the Tien Megadome Theater. \$5. 510-336-7373 or www.ticketweb.com.

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CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND — A fairy tale theme park with more than 30 colorful characters designed especially for children and under there are train, the "Peter Rabbit" pet shows, storybook slides and animals.

PUPPET SHOWS — All the Open Storybook Theater perform Friday through Dec. 19, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. Fairyland admission.

"The Magic Flute," through Dec. 19, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The princess Pamela from the Night.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Dec. 20 and Dec. 21, 1:30 p.m. Sand and Stone, funny fantasy songs. Jacqueline Lynaugh, Dec. 28, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Queen will perform a music program.

CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND — "Holiday Show," through Dec. 21, 11:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 p.m.

\$6 general; includes unlimited special shows, guest puppet shows, free entry age 1, \$2 for a Magic Flute, admitted without a ticket through Sunday, 10 a.m. Dec. 22, Dec. 23, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. permitting. 699 Bellevue land 510-452-2239 or www.fairlyland.org.

CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER — CLOSED THROUGH FEB. 15.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"HOLIDAYS AT DUNSMUIR" — Dec. 21. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays with a tree in every room as well as with garlands and wreaths and other appropriately elegant turn-of-the-century decorations. Docents will lead visitors on guided tours through the Mansion's many rooms and floors.

See KIDS. Page 12.



Beacon School

preschool
elementary
middle school

The Right Instruction, The Right Time, The Right Tools

Beacon graduates self-confident, highly motivated achievers who have a lifelong love of learning and the academic and personal skills necessary to accomplish their goals.

- Challenging Academics
- Developmentally Responsive Curriculum
- Arts Integrated Program
- Year-Round through Fifth Grade, Extended-Year Middle School

Information Meetings - Reservations Required
Middle School • Jan. 7, 7:00 pm — Elementary (K-5) • Jan. 8, 7:00 pm
Call to reserve space 510.437.2311 • The Oakland Waterfront



10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free
Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic
Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oak-
land 510-615-5555

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-size grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

EXHIBITS — "Waterworks." A water play gallery with rivers, a pumping station and a water table. Designed to teach about water.

"Little Town Grocery and Cafe." Designed to create the ambience of shopping in a grocery store and eating in a restaurant.

"Infant-Toddler Garden." A picket-fence gated indoor area which includes a carrot patch with wooden carrots to be harvested, a pretend pond and a butterfly mobile to introduce youngsters to the concept of food, gardening and agriculture.

"Dramatic Arts Stage." Settings, backdrops and costumes coincide with seasonal events and holidays. Children can exercise their dramatic flair here.

"Wiggle Wall." The floor-to-ceiling "underground" tunnels give children a worm's eye view of the world. The tunnels are laced with net covered openings and giant optical lenses.

\$5 general; \$6 children age 7 and under; free children under 12 months Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.

to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **CLOSED** DEC. 23-25. 2065 Kirtledge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 510-647-1111 or www.habitot.org.

HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS —

"This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE — EXHIBITS — "Jelly Belly Presents 'Candy Unwrapped,'" through Jan. 4. Visit 17 interactive stations to learn about the science behind candy. Learn about taste buds on a giant tongue, suck some candy as cameras catch reactions, and find out how insects can be delicious. Climb on a "rock candy" mountain or find out what puff-puff and barfi are.

"Forces That Shape The Bay," ongoing. A science park that shows and explains why the San Francisco Bay is the way it is, with information on water, erosion,

plate tectonics and mountain building. You can ride earthquake simulators, set erosion in motion and look far out into the Bay with a powerful telescope from 1,100 feet above sea level. The center of the exhibit is a waterfall that demonstrates how water flows from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay and you can control where the water goes. There are also hands-on erosion tables, and a 40-foot-long, six-foot-high, rock compression wall.

"The Amazing Maze," ongoing. In a 1,000 square foot area there is a maze of colorful, eight-foot-high plastic panels that will take you this way and that and challenge you to find a way out. For all ages.

"The Idea Lab," ongoing. Enter the domain of the research scientist and the inventor. This lab is an ongoing process with the intent of putting some of the building blocks of current UC Berkeley research in the hands of visitors, giving visitors a chance to observe, make predictions, interpret the evidence and draw conclusions. In Holt Hall.

"Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three-dimensional structures, make dodecahedron pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

"Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiences.

"YEA! Young Explorers Area," ongoing

LHS has a space just for young kids and preschoolers, with a puppet theater, blocks and structures to build and books to read.

"Gravity Wall," ongoing. Create your own vertical maze by inserting plastic cards into a slotted wall and then drop a ball from the top to the bottom.

"Math Around the World," ongoing. Enjoy math with a multicultural perspective.

ONGOING PROGRAMS — Free after museum admission.

Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and above; children under age 10 accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HOLT PLANETARIUM — Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted to any show except "Flying High" at 1 p.m. \$3 general; \$2.50 for ages 18 and under in addition to regular museum admission. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

"Constellations Tonight." Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations of the season on the planetarium sky. Keep the map and try to find the constellations in the real nighttime sky. For ages 6 and above.

"Flying High." Take an imaginary trip into space. Start by speeding through a whole day in the planetarium "time machine," and learning to identify the Big Dipper. Take off with the launch of a spaceship and learn how things

move in space, how astronauts eat food in a weightless environment, and how satellites are put into orbit. For ages 4 to 7 and above.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "RSK Arts and Drumming Production," Dec. 26, noon and 1:30 p.m. Nigerian-born master drummers introduce visitors to the talking drum, as well as the music, costumes and movement of their native land.

"Insect Songs and Activities with Sandi and Steve," Dec. 27, noon and 1:15 p.m. A program of insect songs and hands-on activities.

"Flying Machines," Dec. 28, noon to 2 p.m. Try hands-on activities about flight and learn how kites fly and hot-air balloons float.

\$8.50 general, \$6.50 seniors, students disabled, and youths age 5 to 18. \$4.50 children age 3 to 4, free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley, 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART — A museum of art for and by children with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

EXHIBITS — "Then and Now," opened. An exhibit of the work of children's book illustrators. The exhibit includes current works from the artists and works from the artists' childhoods.

ART CAMPS — Hands-on activities and engaging curriculum for children of different ages, led by professional artists and staff. \$60 a day.

CLASSES — A Sunday series of classes for children age 8 to 12, led by Mocha artists. Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Christmas Services

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

322 St. James Drive, Piedmont
(510) 530-4343

2003 Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24th
Family Mass 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Carols 10:00 p.m.
Mass 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Saturday, December 27th
5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 28th
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 1, 2004
9:00 a.m.

You are invited to
**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services**
at
**Montclair United
Methodist Church**
2162 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland 531-8208

Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. Especially for Families
11:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion



THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24, Christmas Eve
5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
10:30 pm Christmas Carols
11 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day
10 am Choral Eucharist

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

114 Montecito Ave. (near Grand Ave and Harrison), Oakland
(510) 834-4314

The Rev. Dr. John H. Eastwood

Christmas Eve at Northbrae Community Church

5:00pm — Children's Service with a play, stories and carols
10:00pm — Candlelight Service of music, poetry and sacred words to open the heart to the joy of Christmas

A non-denominational church that welcomes people from diverse religious heritages.
941 The Alameda, Berkeley • 526-3805
between Marin & Solano



First Congregational Church of Berkeley

United Church of Christ
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve.

5:00 p.m. Family Celebration

9:30 Chancel Choir and Gabriel's Trumpet Trio
10:00 p.m. Candlelight and Carol Service
Rev. Patricia de Jong, preaching

On Dana Between Channing Way and Durant
510.848.3696 www.fcbb.org

First Covenant Church, Oakland

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday, December 21 ■ 5 PM

John Rutter's **THE MAGNIFICAT**
and other beautiful music of the Season
featuring the **Sanctuary Choir, Chamber
Singers, and Festival Chamber Orchestra**
David Leestma, director

General Admission — an offering will be received
Childcare available — free parking
doors open at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 24 ■ 5 PM

4000 Redwood Road Oakland CA 94619
(510) 531-5244
(on the hill next to the Lincoln Square Safeway)

CHRISTMAS EVE ON THE HILL

Join us for a warm, wonderful
Christmas Eve service of lessons and
carols in the beautiful sanctuary of
Skyline Community Church. Service
begins at 8pm followed by cider and
cookies! As a congregation of the
United Church of Christ, we welcome
members of all traditions.

12540 Skyline Blvd., Oakland
510-531-8212

glory to God in the
highest and peace
to his people
on earth"



Christmas is a time for family and friends to be together.
We'd be honored to have you, your family and your
friends as part of our family this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 & 11:00 P.M.

A choral service of hymns and choir anthems.
Oakland Senior Choir accompanied by strings, bells, and organ
— and Santa Lucia.

Christmas Day Service, 10:00 A.M.
A quiet celebration with traditional liturgy.

Zion Lutheran Church

"IN THE PIEDMONT/MONTCLAIR HILLS"

2001 PARK BLVD. + PIEDMONT/OAKLAND, CA + 530-4213

Christmas Eve Worship at PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 pm: Family Service

9:00 to 11:00 pm: Candlelight Services

The Rev. Dr. William H. McNabb
Senior Minister
The Rev. Scott Kail
Student Ministers

The Rev. Don Ashburn
Associate Minister
The Rev. Judy Huston
Children's Ministers

400 Highland Ave., Piedmont + 510-547-5700
(main entrance on Mountain Ave.)

www.piedmontchurch.org

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: DECEMBER 1, 2003
 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are
 The applicant(s) listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at 2352 SHATTUCK AVE #106 BERKELEY, CA 94704
 For the following type of License:
 1. ON-SALE BEER AND WINE, EATING PLACE
 Oakland District Office 1515 Clay Street Suite 2206 Oakland, CA 94612 510.522.4070
 Public Hearing Voice 510.522.4070
 Public Hearing December 12, 19, 26, 2003

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CELLA OWENS CASE NUMBER: 03-12867

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CELLA OWENS, PETITION FOR PROBATE was filed by ROBERT JONES in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, County of Alameda Trial Court, Case No. 03-12867, on December 12, 2003.

The PETITION requests that the decedent's WILLS and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate, and that all and codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the independent administration of Estates Act. This authority will be the personal representative to take certain very important actions without obtaining court approval, before taking certain very important actions.

However, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed actions.

The independent administrator authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

HEARING on the petition will be held on February 03, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept. 23 located at 221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the

Legal Notice

hearing and state your objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be by a person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months of the date of first issuance of letters of administration in section 5101 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date notified above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or order entered in section 1250 of the California Probate Code. The request for Special Notice is available at the County Clerk, Attorney for the Court.

CELIA OWENS, Esq. 388 Colusa Ave. #407 510-526-5144

Public Hearing December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

Legal Notice

NAME STATEMENT

OCTOBER 21, 2003

THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS: AMADEUS PET SITTERS is hereby registered to the following owner(s):

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SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/STAFF

ROCK 'N' ROLL ALL NIGHT? In the aftermath of Internet downloads, music-related merchandise, such as this light-up KISS by Spencer Gifts, has become a booming business.

Merchandise

PAGE C16

just all KISS, either. half-wall of Elvis merchandise, as well as lots of items Metallica, OutKast, Nelly, Eminem, Misfits, Eminem, Bob Marley, Doors, makeup-clad rap band Insane Clown Posse.

Insane Clown Posse and consumers, they are both immersed in their merchandise, adding to the store's contemporary pop culture. The store is also featured in the store's merchandise. The store is also featured in the store's merchandise.

better deals

declined to give details, but the bigger the deal. KISS merchandise is sold with Spencer; other

stuff it does through its own company. "The money varies (between bands), but obviously those coming in with more clout make more," he said. Tower is also focusing on exclusive-rights deals, so if people want a particular item, they have to buy from them.

The Hot Topic store at Stoneridge mall in Pleasanton seems to focus more on contemporary acts, including punk bands such as Good Charlotte (both the pens and stationery sell for \$2.99, the journals \$6.99), and figurines representing local guys AFI (\$16.99). There's a Sublime wall clock for \$18 and ... yes, they also sell Insane Clown Posse merchandise.

ICP probably makes more from merchandising than its less-than-spectacular CD sales. Similar to KISS, ICP uses makeup and outrageous personalities to sell itself. KISS is seen as a ground-breaker in a growing business. "The band has had a profound effect on the business," Champion says.

The retail merchandise explosion benefits countless other companies as well. Oakland's

Cinder Block started out in 1989 as a small shop making T-shirts for local bands. The company has grown into a national merchandising powerhouse, handling aspects of gear for AFI, Green Day, Radiohead, Jay-Z, and the Goo Goo Dolls, among others.

"Over the course of three years, this company has gone from 30 people to 100-plus," says Carol Gray, assistant to co-founder and former Tilt guitarist Jeffery Bischoff. "It's growing by leaps and bounds. Realistically, we're taking more risks, and kids want edgier stuff."

"Kids do have more funds now, plus they don't have that connection with the band through the CDs. They now get to know the bands through T-shirts and other merchandise."

Inspector gadgets

Technology also helps; something on which Virgin is especially counting. Branson said his favorite gadget in the revamped store (since he hadn't had time to check out the adult section, he said) was something called the Musikube Personal Music Guide. The handheld gadget holds sam-

ples of more than 2 million songs, reviews and other related content, allowing users to zap bar codes on CDs and hear samples of music. It also allows customers to maintain a music library to keep track of what they like.

It's not something people can buy. It's just another tool to bring people into the stores; another way to get people to see all the other items Virgin now features.

"When we were buying lots of music in the '70s, we didn't have much technology," Branson said. "We were into clothing. What's happening now is that people have diversified their needs more."

That may not be healthy for the corner record store that doesn't have the shelf space for gadgets and quirky accessories. Some of the bigger ones do, and must utilize it better to survive.

"Unless you invest and are bold, you will die in any industry," Branson said.

Especially in this one.

Tony Hicks can be reached at 925-952-2678 or thicks@acc-times.com.

Taylor

FROM PAGE C16

The photographs of Diane Arbus have been controversial for decades, but the truth of her images can't be denied. More than 200 of her photos are currently on display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. If you explore just a portion of the show, you'll be convinced that Arbus wasn't exploiting freakish people, but conveying their unique qualities and compelling us to enter their world.

I found myself drawn to simple, timeless Arbus images that nobody would consider shocking: the luminous face of a crying baby — the essence of crying babies — and a teenage couple standing arm in arm in their winter coats, looking uncannily like the old people they will become.

An artist who gets to the truth in a very different way is Mark Rothko. By now, on repeated visits, I've probably stared for hours at one of his paintings in particular, a piece that is part of the museum's permanent collection.

The wall-size painting is from 1960, with orange and blue fields of color that seem to pulsate over a maroon background. It's easy to become hypnotized by this work; sitting on a bench in front of it, your field of vision becomes almost filled.

Rothko declared that his aim was to remove all obstacles

between the painter and the idea, and between the idea and the viewer. He does for me, and the search for truth in his work feels almost like a religious experience. (Maybe I need to visit the Rothko Chapel in Houston.)

Sometimes the truth blasts out at you from unexpected places. Fred Wilson's exhibit early this year at the UC Berkeley Art Museum looked at history from an African-American perspective. One installation was made up of objects he found at the Maryland Historical Society: four elaborate 19th-century chairs and, placed like a crucifix in front of them, a whipping post.

Just after the first anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek presented an exhibit filled with images of loss and hope. There were plenty of heartfelt, handcrafted twin towers and patriotic symbols.

But the image that still haunts me came from Oakland artist Raymond Saunders. It was a simple, black and white painting of what looked like an ancient urn, just unearthed. At the same time it resembled the objects photographed near ground zero, covered with a layer of dust and ash.

Saunders found the heart of the story in a single object, and, as Eleanor Coppola might suggest, he found a way to honor our truth.

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@ccimes.com.

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Eggplant makes thoughtful holiday fare

eclectic musical 'brings cello, violin and an accordion named Donna Mae — to Epic Arts performance space

Brian Kluepfel

Mitra knows that the stage is a dark place. What he does with his music is accept the depressing state of affairs, but at the same time some beacon of hope in a shot of espresso," he

grew up in Rochester, playing the stand-up bass and high school ensemble. He moved to Oberlin College and moved him into the world of funk and gospel music and some college cohorts with the musicians at a Sunday service. "Seeing the breaking out for the glory is pretty cool and in-

current musical project, Eggplant Casino, comes to after four years of living in San Francisco.

Working on the score yet-unfinished musical "The Liars," Mitra found that people in the play were taking to his compositions. "I've got what he calls 'a small orchestra based on folk music from around the world I've been listening to.' The influences range from Brazilian samba to American blue-

IF YOU GO

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.
WHAT: Eggplant Casino

WHERE: Epic Arts performance space, 1923 Ashby Ave., at Martin Luther King Jr. Way

TICKETS: \$7-10 donation, all ages welcome, no one turned away for lack of funds. 510-644-2204

grass.

Mitra, who also plays in a "comedy band" that backs up the monthly "Late Night With God" spoof at El Rio nightclub in the Mission, says of his musical collective "we've got bluegrass players, classical players, and acoustic soul band players. People from lots of different backgrounds playing things like bassoon, cello and marimba."

Members of groups like Belle Monroe and the Brewglass Boys and the Boneless Children's Foundation help to realize Mitra's somewhat twisted musical vision. Vocalists include Vanessa Morrison and Carvell Wallace of the Accidental Beauties.

In addition to electric bass, violin and vocals, Mitra will be front-and-center with an orange accordion named Donna Mae which he recently purchased. Though not an expert, he does use the big sound to his advantage. "The best challenge with accordion is just to get up on stage and start playing!" he says.

"I had to buy it," he says. "I mean, an accordion named Donna Mae! And I had the same

color shoes on when I bought it!"

Mitra songs like "Happy Happy" show his eclectic influences, bending pop country guitar lines around a steady samba beat to these dour lyrics: "Happy birthday to everybody but you, you're not like the rest, you're special."

"We try to let the audience know we're joking around, but the lyrics are definitely not friendly," says Mitra, mentioning the influence of They Might Be Giants in his music.

Other tunes like "Las Vegas in the Rain" show the minimalist influence of Philip Glass, while some tangos are built into the set list for the benefit of cellists to give them an opportunity for some lyricism.

Many of the Eggplant's cohorts will be dressed up as croupiers and other casino denizens in honor of the band's name. "Casinos are kind of scary, evil places. I liked the way the name felt," says Mitra, who chose the name while designing a poster for a friend.

So if you're feeling a bit down during the holiday season, perhaps a serving of Eggplant Casino is just the thing. "The songs are about being generally happy in a world that makes you mad and angry ...," Mitra says. "The idea is to send something different (energy) out, and rather than be depressed, think what you can do about it."

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

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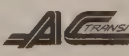
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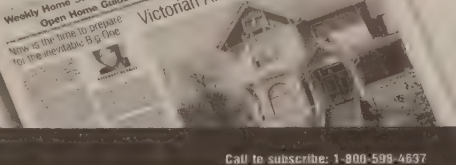
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Friday, December 19, 2003

Section D

CHERYL JENSEN
the Road

What is luxury
for cars
these days?

When some years ago the luxury market was easy to define. It was made up of full-size luxury cars like the Cadillac DeVille and the Lincoln Town Car. Continental, European cars were exotic and no one would think of buying a Japanese brand luxury.

The luxury market has changed a lot since 1980 when it was made up of roughly a million large cars like the DeVille, said Mark LaN-
Cadillac's general manager. It has shrunk 80 percent, to about 200,000 cars.

Meanwhile, what is now called the "luxury" segment, which went back then, has grown to about 800,000 vehicles, he said. "It's the same time baby boomers' tastes turned to European sedans, and the Japanese came from nowhere and claimed a position in luxury."

The luxury brands sold in the U.S. in 1995, 37 percent were domestic, 24 percent were Asian and 39 percent were European. This year, 29 percent were domestic, 29 percent were Asian and 43 percent were European, according to J.D. Power and Associates.

Luxury is defined has also changed. It once meant a vehicle with leather seats or one with a certain price. These days leather has almost standard equipment and price — which once

See ROAD Page D3



MOTOR MATTERS

BMW ADDS "sport activity vehicle" to its popular 3 Series with new X3 that's capable of going off-road, yet retains all the BMW luxuries and style.

BMW launches 2004 X3 sport 'activity' vehicle

MOTOR MATTERS

BMW adds a utility model to the 3 Series line. Its newest addition is the 2004 X3 sport activity vehicle.

The 3 Series has developed a huge base of adoring followers, resulting in happy times for BMW. The automaker predicts a whole new group of buyers, who have never owned a BMW, will be attracted to the brand with the X3.

Drivers reluctant to purchase a rear-wheel drive BMW because "it won't go in snow," will feel more assured with the X3. It's an all-wheel drive BMW featuring a system

called "xDrive."

BMW says the quick reflexes of xDrive is at the heart of the X3, giving it remarkable traction and handling abilities. I wanted to know if xDrive was just a fancy word for all-wheel drive. Not quite.

The X3 operates in rear-wheel drive under normal driving conditions. xDrive takes a whole new approach to regulating torque between the front and rear wheels, preventing oversteer and understeer, resulting in a vehicle that is in constant balance. That's it in a nutshell.

CONNIE KEANE

Keane on Wheels

But to elaborate a little further, the multi-plate clutch is the cornerstone to the xDrive system.

The MPC is in constant slip movement, leaving xDrive in a proactive state for traction and constantly variable torque. The multi-plate clutch operates with minimum slip under normal driving conditions for a 40/60-torque split, front and

rear, providing for the rear-wheel drive character.

I had the opportunity to take the X3 off-road, driving the 4,023-pound vehicle along the Apache Trail in Arizona. Particularly treacherous were several miles of dirt road with blinding mountainous twists and straight drops.

Exercising every precaution imaginable, I crept along with a healthy amount of fear: Fear of meeting oncoming drivers head-on.

One thing that was not weighing on my mind was my ability to hold traction when having to skirt

out of the way quickly. The xDrive inspired confidence for off-roading.

The X3 comes with two power-plant choices: A 2.5-liter six-cylinder and a 3.0-liter six-cylinder engine. The X3 2.5i produces 184 horsepower and 175 pounds-foot of torque.

My tester was the X3 3.0i which produced 225 horsepower at 5,900 rpm and 214 pounds-foot of torque at 3,500 rpm.

It was mated to the optional five-speed automatic transmission. A

See KEANE, Page D3

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1967 Chevrolet Impala is like no other convertible

MOTOR MATTERS

Although he spent countless hours riding in the back seat, Dave Gehrmann doesn't remember much about the 1967 Chevrolet four-door sedan his father, Rudolf, had when he was growing up in Sun Prairie, Wis.

By the spring of 2000, Gehrmann was grown and had family of his own in Crystal Lake, Ill., and was itching for an antique car. While perusing a national publication listing old cars for sale, he saw a 1967 Chevrolet Impala convertible offered in Lancaster, Pa.

Soon thereafter business took him to Reading, Pa., where he made a short detour to see the vehicle. "It was a pampered and un-molested car," Gehrmann says.

He gave the convertible the best inspection he could under the circumstances. The seller agreed to hold the Chevrolet until Gehrmann could return to claim it.

In April, Gehrmann and his father flew to Harrisburg, Pa., where they rented a car and drove to Lancaster. The car was as nice as he had remembered.

"It is all original except it has

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

been repainted the original Bolero red after some rust repair in the rear fenders," Gehrmann says. After the necessary paperwork was completed, Gehrmann slid behind the wheel of his new toy.

His father followed him back to Harrisburg where the rental car was returned. The cavernous trunk easily swallowed their luggage and an amazingly spacious interior comforted them on the trip home. The 1,100-mile road home went through Cleveland where Gehrmann had scheduled a business meeting the next day.

Because the dash lights that illuminate the instruments were not working, the father and son team decided that all the driving would be done during daylight hours.

The first day the dauntless duo successfully drove to Cleveland. Following Gehrmann's meeting the second day, they pushed onward, and at sundown, were in Chicago.

The third day, they rolled on



THIS 1967 Chevrolet Impala convertible has had three owners and has all original parts except for a new paint job. It has a 184-hp V8 engine and a two-speed Powerglide transmission.

home to Crystal Lake and, as Gehrmann recalls happily, the timing was perfect: "We got home in time for dinner."

At the conclusion of the trip he is happy to report that the bias-ply tires didn't let him down. He proudly adds that "the car didn't burn any oil."

Chevrolet offered buyers a choice of six V8 engines in 1967 from the 427-cubic-inch, 385-horsepower engine down to the 283-cubic-inch, 195-horsepower version which is the V8 model that propels Gehrmann's 3,625-pound Impala

convertible. Although the speedometer indicates readiness to record speeds up to 120 mph, he has his doubts.

At highway speeds, Gehrmann says, "There's a lot of pedal left." However, he concludes, "The transmission is the limiting factor." It is a two-speed Powerglide transmission.

The base price of the flashy Chevrolet was \$3,097. It came equipped with a power-operated black vinyl convertible top with a matching black vinyl interior. Be-

sides the power assisted steering and brakes, there is an AM radio to help the miles go by more pleasantly.

Gehrmann understands that he is the third owner of the car which now has been driven 129,000 miles. The history of the convertible that he was told involves the original owner, a man of the cloth. "His congregation felt it was too flashy," he relates.

Consequently, the very red convertible was sold when it was only a year old to the second owner who

kept it 32 years. The third owner, the

Gehrmann entered the third owner's life. After that long, three home from Penn Gehrmann has accumulated local miles. He enjoys locally in good weather. portive family include Jeanette and twins, Claire.

Riding on a 110-mile road the 1967 Chevrolet Impala other convertible in town

1967 Cadillac DeVille provides enjoyable driving

EDITOR'S NOTE: this is the Classic Classics column from Dec. 12 which did not run due to lack of space.

MOTOR MATTERS

Like many New Englanders, Paul Bozzini prefers spending as much of the winter as possible in Florida.

While vacationing in the Sunshine State during the mid-1980s, Bozzini saw an antique Cadillac convertible advertised for sale. By the time he found the address the car was sold.

Back home in Milford, Mass., it wasn't until October 1988 that he learned of another old Cadillac that was for sale by the original owner. "I quickly arranged to view the vehicle which was located in Waterbury, Conn.," Bozzini says.

With his son, Christopher, he drove to Connecticut to inspect the 1967 Cadillac DeVille convertible with 103,000 miles on the odometer. After looking over the then 21-year-old car, Bozzini found it to be in good condition.

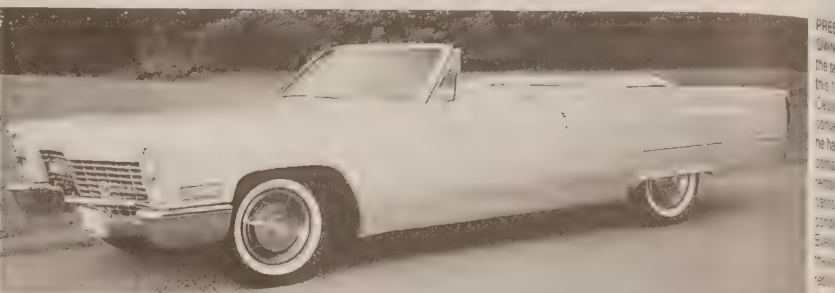
VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

Negotiations followed and soon a very happy Bozzini was behind the steering wheel of his newly acquired Cadillac on the road home to Massachusetts.

In Hartford, Conn., the big 429-cubic-inch V8 engine died. A little tinkering with the four-barrel carburetor and a fresh tank of gasoline got the car running all the way home where the carburetor was completely rebuilt.

Bozzini now reports that his Cadillac delivers about 14 miles per gallon on the highway.

The Cadillac Motor Car Division build sheet dated June 30, 1967 indicates the convertible, one of 18,202 produced in 1967, left the factory with: door guards, AM/FM radio, soft ray glass, power antenna, power steering, power windows and climate control.



The Cadillac had a base price of \$5,608 but, with all the extra cost options, the total price rose to \$6,639.15. Schoobey Cadillac, Inc., of West Palm Beach sold the new car on Aug. 4, 1967, to Edward F. Caffery who kept it 21 years.

For the next seven years Bozzini worked on restoring his Cadillac to like-new condition. During that period it was repainted the original Venetian Blue and both bumpers were removed and shipped off for replating.

A new perforated Grecian White leather interior by Jenkins, an exact duplicate of the original, was in-

stalled. The worn carpet was replaced and a new tan convertible top was installed. Bozzini plans to have the new top out of sight most of the time under a white boot that matches the upholstery.

The most extensive repair the car underwent was replacing the rusted-out floor of the trunk. Bozzini found a replacement floor pan which was welded in place after the cancerous metal was cut away.

Correct hoses, clamps and belts now are in place under the enormous engine hood. The car stretches 18.6-feet from the stacked

headlights to the rear fenders, and it rolls on a 129.5-inch wheelbase.

With the restoration process completed, in July 1995 Bozzini fired up his like-new then 28-year-old car, and with 340 horsepower at his command, drove to the Cadillac LaSalle Club Grand National meet in Albany, N.Y. There it received first place in its class.

Along with other club members in their Cadillacs, he took his convertible to a car event on the eastern end of Long Island.

The ferry from Connecticut to Montauk Point on Long Island carried fewer cars than normal that day

because of all the extra lacs on board.

The engine runs strong never been rebuilt since Bozzini. It still has a propelling the handsome 4,479-pound Cadillac.

"I very much enjoy my beautiful Cadillac," Bozzini says. He is planning to transport the car to Florida use in St. Petersburg during there this winter.

"I've had a lot of fun car," Bozzini observes "to have more"

How to choose the right bike

MOTOR MATTERS

There are a variety of reasons that people ride motorcycles — probably as many reasons as there are riders.

Some of the reasons that motorcycles are appealing include: they provide economic fuel mileage; they take less room to park and store than a car; the purchase price is generally less than that of most cars; they're an expression of freedom; they're fun to ride; and they evoke an adventuresome image.

There are huge differences between cars and motorcycles besides size and weight — the most significant differences, however, are vulnerability and stability. Motorcycles, for the most part, require a much higher level of skill to operate.

There are a number of differences in the types of motorcycles available. Basically, motorcycles are identified in three major groups by usage: off-road, street and dual-purpose.

Each category offers specialized models. Off-road bikes consist of motocross and enduro models, designed primarily for competition and recreational use. Most are not street legal.

The street bike category consists of: the standard base model, intended for all-around street usage; sport bikes that focus on speed and performance as sports cars do with the four-wheeled set; cruisers which are generally personalized or custom machines; and touring bikes which are the RVs of the motorcycle world.

The dual purpose, or hybrid motorcycle category, combines the riding characteristics and capabilities of off-road bikes with the necessary equipment found on

ARV VOSS
2-Wheeling Today

street bikes to make them legal for on-road operation, such as lights, signals, horn, etc.

Keep in mind that off-road or dual purpose tires provide less traction on paved surfaces than specifically designed street tires.

Power sources include both two-stroke and four-stroke motors (the latter being the most prevalent) which commonly range in size from 50cc to 1500cc plus. The majority of motorcycle engines are air-cooled, though many upscale models feature liquid cooling.

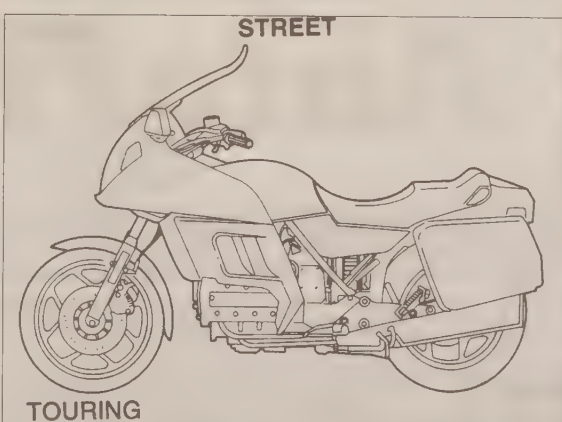
Final drives may be set up in a chain, belt or shaft configuration.

That pretty much covers the basics of available motorcycle types. Now, how do you select what's right for you? Major issues to be dealt with:

- What type of riding do you want to do?
- Is the motorcycle capable of living up to your expectations?
- Does the motorcycle fit you comfortably?
- Does the motorcycle fit into your budget?

Other important considerations are your personal strength and size. If you're unable to stand over or sit in the saddle and touch the ground with both feet flat, the bike is too big or too tall for you.

If the bike is too heavy for you to push it in a figure 8 or back it up without exert-



MOTOR MATTERS

DECIDING what type of motorcycle fits you best takes some comparative shopping of different makes and models.

ing yourself or losing your balance, then you need to look for a lighter bike.

Your riding experience will determine how much bike you should opt for.

All motorcycles require skill to ride safely — larger, faster models require even more skill. Consider adjustment of controls and set-up to ensure a proper personal fit.

Once you've addressed the above points satisfactorily, you need to find a reputable motorcycle dealer who will spend time with you in answering your questions and matching your needs in selecting an appropriate bike.

If a dealer is reluctant to spend time with

you before the purchase, imagine how little time or attention you'll get after the sale.

Every make and model of motorcycle is, at least, just a little different in terms of styling, design, features and controls.

An excellent exercise to perform when shopping for a motorcycle is to make a thorough, comparative list of features in terms of pluses and minuses offered by various models available from different manufacturers.

Don't forget to include insurance, accessories, and riding gear into your motorcycle budget. We'll deal with proper riding gear selection in a later article.

Stay alert and awake on the highway

EDITED AND COMPILED

BY CHUCK MYERS

KNIGHT RIDER/TIMBERLINE NEWS SERVICE

You're entering the third hour of a five-hour trip driving along the interstate. Your head suddenly dips and jerks back. Your mind begins to drift. Your eyelids feel heavy.

All of these are sure signs that the sandman is calling, and it's time to get off the road — fast.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that approximately 40,000 nonfatal injuries and 1,550 fatalities are caused each year by car accidents involving drowsy drivers.

Several factors can lead to drowsy driving. The lack of a good night's rest before a long drive is a common cause.

Taking sedating medication — such as an antihistamine — is other. In some cases, a sleep disorder can lead to drowsiness behind the wheel.

Knowing how to recognize the warning signals of drowsiness can stop a dangerous situation from becoming deadly. Here are some signs to watch out for:

■ You can't recall the last few miles traveled.

■ Your car drifts in its lane and hits the bumps along the shoulder of the road, or you need to keep jerking the wheel just to stay in your lane.

■ Your mind begins to wander and you can't maintain a coherent thought.

■ You struggle to keep your

eyes open.

■ You're missing traffic signs or following too closely behind other cars.

■ Your head bobs.

There are things you can do while driving to prevent feeling sleepy:

■ Drive with another passenger, and take turns behind the wheel.

■ Don't head out for a long journey at night. The glare from the dashboard and rhythm of passing lights can cause highway hypnosis.

■ Keep the car's internal environment cool. Open a window or use air conditioning. Music helps maintain alertness, but avoid anything too soft and gentle.

See DROWSY, Page D3

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<p>Alameda</p> <p>BIGGEST SALE SAT. 12/20 9-3 1533 N 9TH ST Misc. Items. Must Sell Good Prices</p> <p>SAT ONLY 12/20 9-3 2019 Eagle Ave (off Chestnut) Tools, toys, clothes, boat, sporting goods, etc.</p> <p>SATURDAY 12/20 9-10am Everything Goes! Stereo, TV cab, VCR, cass, deck, cupboard, tools, clothing (4-16), household galore! 3328 PIN AVENUE Off Island Dr.</p> <p>SATURDAY 8am-2pm 2059 Santa Clara Ave #8 In back of Bldg. Bakers rack, shelves, books, clothes, MOVING-Must Sell</p> <p>CLASSIFIED = RESULTS</p>	<p>Antioch</p> <p>GARAGE SALE 3300 Gentrytown Dr. Fri. thru Sun. 12/19-21, 9-4 Collectible dolls, beanie babies, Xmas decor., clothes, bedding, metal kennel, adult pampers, computer & printer.</p> <p>Berkeley</p> <p>HOLIDAY SALE! Looking For A Last Minute Gift? Come & Choose From A Large Selection of Antique Pillows 1636 Spruce St. Saturday 12/20, 10-2PM Rain Cancels Sale</p> <p>Brentwood</p> <p>MOVING SALE Kids' stuff, houseware, baby items, and home goods! Sat. 12/13 8am-12pm 1766 Corte Vista 925-513-1432</p>	<p>Concord</p> <p>LEATHER GARMENTS. Also Household Items. Unbelievable Prices! CASH ONLY Sat & Sun 12/20-21, 10AM-4PM 780 McKean Place Off Oak Grove Rd. & Barrymore Dr.</p> <p>Danville</p> <p>MOVING SALE 4198 Rockcreek Ct. Thurs-Sun 9-5pm Refrig., W/D, furn., lad- ders, football tbl. Everything must go! Cheap! 925-820-5508</p> <p>SAT DEC 20, 9-2 4198 Rockcreek Ct. Collectible Star Wars & new toys, hshd. items. Vintage clothing, new nursing tops, Christmas ornaments & more!</p> <p>CLASSIFIED = RESULTS</p>	<p>Hercules</p> <p>ESTATE SALE SAT-SUN 9-3 1 Range Ct. 2 Recliners, full sz. bed, sq. bed, furn., glass, col- lectibles, kitchenware & tons more. Rt Anderson</p> <p>Livermore</p> <p>788 WAGONER DR. SAT. & SUN. 9AM-3PM Misc. glassware, house- hold, artwork, & more!</p> <p>PHOTO-ART SALE 1000+ Prints under \$50 1051 Lynn St. Saturday Only! 8-5pm</p> <p>Martinez</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Antiques, oak/vintage furn., glassware, Rascal, elec., car, tools, TV's! Sat. 12/20 9am-4pm 6815 WAVERLY ROAD 925-998-3078</p>	<p>Martinez</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Sat. 12/20, 8AM-1PM Huge Sale! Avon Items 509 Blue Ridge Dr. Thousands of Items! Xmas items, collectibles, jewelry, make-up, skin care items, bargains, most items in boxes, various hshd. items, all must go!</p> <p>MOVING SALE! Mahog. Qn. canopy bed, Vanity dresser, lawn- mower, bikes, curio, com- puter table, rocker, tools, metal foot lockers. Saturday (12/20), 9-2 p.m. 1713 Jeanine Circle</p> <p>Oakland</p> <p>50% OFF STORE WIDE Discovery Shop of the American Cancer Society. Sun. 12-4, Mon/Tues. 10-5 127 Alibi St. @ Piedmont Ave. (510) 601-0100. All proceeds benefit the programs of the American cancer society.</p>	<p>Oakland</p> <p>ESTATE SALE 101 ALTA @ FLORENCE SAT 9-4 SUN 9-3 Grand Piano (Baby), rel- ics, Art, China, furniture, linens, household, freez- ers, couches, Daisy 510 688-1606.</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Of 99yr. old lady. Saturday 9:30-4pm. 3939 Randolph Ave. Entire House (see signs on Park Blvd) Costume jewelry, furn., old tools & fishing gear, linens, crystal, Knick- knacks, glass, books, Xmas items. Priced to go!</p> <p>HOLIDAY/GIFT/RUNNAGE BENEFIT SALE Sat. 12/20, 9-1 p.m. Neighborhood Center at 530 Lakeshore. Wide variety, unique items, great prices, indoors!</p> <p>CLASSIFIED = RESULTS</p>	<p>Oakland</p> <p>INDOOR GARAGE SALE Do your last min. Xmas shopping here! Gifts, cos- metics, jewelry, dolls, books, clothes, shoes, purses, ornaments, vid- eos, tapes, etc. SATURDAY 10am-4pm 2414 RAMPART ST Off Lincoln</p> <p>MOVING, FINAL 2 DAYS! EVERYTHING MUST GO!! 145 AGNES ST. (off Shendian) Sat/Su. 10-4 Frames, computer desks, elec. gds, color matching lights, sideboard, tbl./chrs. X-mas garlands, clothes</p> <p>Oakley</p> <p>GARAGE SALE SATURDAY (12/20) 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M. 5245 Teresa Ct. Kids' stuff, games, exercise equipment, etc. Great Christmas Gifts.</p> <p>CLASSIFIED = RESULTS</p>	<p>Pleasanton</p> <p>Saturday 12/20, 8-1 pm 6233 Guyson Ct. Miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Richmond</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm 2313 Carlson Blvd. 40 Yr. Accumulation! Old games, costume jewelry, din. tbl./chrs. 50's bdrm set, flatware, old camera equipment, Fiesta Ware Pottery & 100's of items</p> <p>Rodeo</p> <p>BARBARE SALE 855 Hawthorn Dr. Fri. & Sat. 9am-4pm Guitars & Amps, Bass Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins, Violin, Jewelry & Lots Of Toys Rain Or Shine!</p>	<p>San Pablo</p> <p>ESTATE SALE 60 Yrs of Grandpa's Stuff Saturday 12/20 9am-4pm Rain or Shine! Inside Basement 1500 Ventura Ave. (Cross- San Pablo Dam Rd.) BUILDING MATERIALS</p> <p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>ESTATE SALE Fri. Sat. & Sun. By appt. Only! 925-943-6084: 788-6356 Library tbl, huge dining tbl, 3 cfr. desks, walnut hutch & misc. items</p> <p>MOVING SALE SATURDAY 8am-4pm 2870 BUENA VISTA AVE Off Geary Furn., baby toys & MUCH MORE!!!</p> <p>Place A Class Ad in Hills Newspapers</p>
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Where
is
your
dream
home?

Real Estate & Home

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

Now is the time to prepare
for the inevitable 'Big One'

Victorian Architecture at its finest

A Victorian-style home with a wrap-around porch, a full basement, and a large lot. This home is a true gem and is being sold at a special price. The owner is moving out of state and is looking for a quick sale. The home features a large living room with a fireplace, a formal dining room, and a kitchen with a breakfast nook. The bedrooms are spacious and the bathrooms are modern. The wrap-around porch is a great feature for entertaining. The full basement provides extra storage space. The large lot is perfect for a garden or a pool. This home is a must-see for anyone looking for a Victorian-style home in the East Bay.



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HILLS NEWSPAPERS
THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTCLARION
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What are

you driving?

Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal
Friday, August 22, 2001 Section D

Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices began to rise so do motorists' concerns about fuel economy. In fact so concernedly a pump in gas prices is often accompanied by vigorous advertising of new-saving gadgets, supported by claims that found the need to be true. For example, a new "fuel saving" device is advertised as being able to save 10 percent on fuel consumption. According to the F.E. most fuel-saving gadgets and oil does simply don't work, and even the few products that have been found to work produce disappointing results.

Walter, a "fuel saving" device is advertised as being able to save 10 percent on fuel consumption. According to the F.E. most fuel-saving gadgets and oil does simply don't work, and even the few products that have been found to work produce disappointing results.

Automotive engineers have found only a few that actually provide fuel economy, and none that do so significantly.

The automotive fuel market of the past few years has been a mix of gas prices, gas mileage, and a variety of gadgets that don't work.

Automotive engineers have found only a few that actually provide fuel economy, and none that do so significantly.

The automotive fuel market of the past few years has been a mix of gas prices, gas mileage, and a variety of gadgets that don't work.



ACURA RSX TYPE-S is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. The ride is a bit bouncy, but steering is easy.

Acura RSX makes shifting much more enjoyable

TOM KEANE

Keane is a writer.

In spite of summer's heat, the hot 2002 Acura RSX Type-S is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. The ride is a bit bouncy, but steering is easy.

Automotive engineers have found only a few that actually provide fuel economy, and none that do so significantly.

The automotive fuel market of the past few years has been a mix of gas prices, gas mileage, and a variety of gadgets that don't work.

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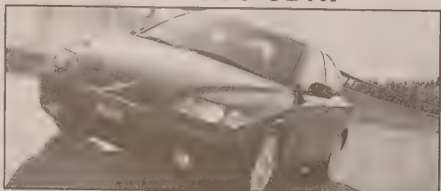


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MSRP \$18,934
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,046
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WARRANTY
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* Warranty available for review at dealership.

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BARBER DISCOUNT \$1,027
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- ALL WITH CD PLAYER



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1.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS
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'03 HIGHLANDER

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**OR \$750
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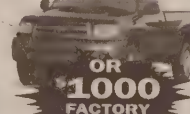
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0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
ON APPROVED CREDIT



OR 2000 FACTORY REBATE

'04 TUNDRA



**OR 1000
FACTORY
REBATE**

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RENTALS

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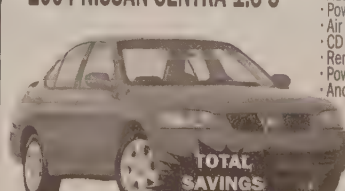
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- Power Windows & Locks
- 4 Wheel Disc Brakes
- CD Audio System
- Air Conditioning
- Cruise Control

SALE PRICE

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2004 NISSAN SENTRA 1.8 S

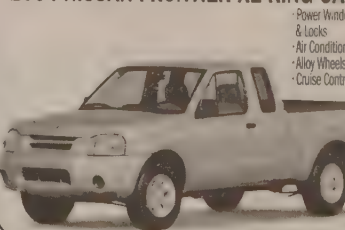


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- Remote Keyless Entry
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- And More!

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SALE PRICE \$18,486
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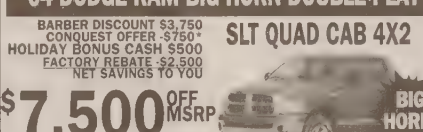
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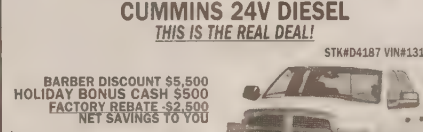
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BARBER DISCOUNT \$4,250
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*MUST BE A REGISTERED OWNER OF A VEHICLE.

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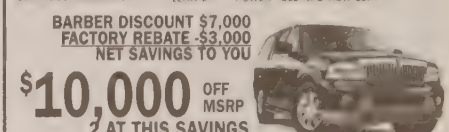
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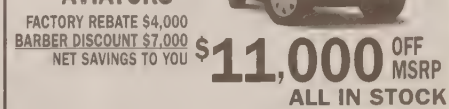
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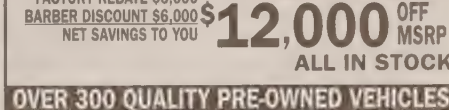
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STK#M40012 VIN#040076
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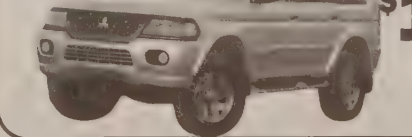
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- LEATHER
- WOODGRAIN
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FACTORY REBATE -\$4,000
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* MUST BE CURRENT REGISTERED OWNER OF A MITSUBISHI VEHICLE

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ALOT of Nanny Jobs! Call MOMS AWAY 925-9367/910-559-9195

CAREGIVER: Antioch, live-in, bi-racial, 2 girls, 10 hrs. Have CDL. POST FILL

CAREGIVER: live in for 6 hrs in Danville. Call Barbara 925-733-3343 Web ID CC1213548827

CHILD CARE: for 10 yr. old boy, 12/17 hr. Car req. Mon, wed. & Thurs. after 5:00. 925-838-1522 or Office @ 510-790-1915

CHILD CARE: P/T, My Walnut Crk. nm, 1-9mos. old, refs. req. POST FILL

DOG WALKER NEEDED: for morn. & eve. walks nr. Clearmont hotel. Must be resp., flex., have a car/ ex. refs & love dogs. 510-547-4706

HOUSEHOLD/Personal Asst. Mon-Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm. Childcare, light housekeeping errors. Own car. Non sm. English spk., energetic & self-motivated. Excel. pay. POSITION FILLED

MAINTENANCE/handyperson: P/T, live in/out. Filopino spk 925-736-1745

NANNY: needed 1/1-p/t live-in-out. Care Along The Way 925-685-4883/800-705-6629

NANNY: Benicia, 2 boys ages 4 & 7, youngest has special needs. P/T, speak English, CDL, exper. & refs. req. (707) 747-5410

NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER: 15+ hrs wk. Afternoon. Danville. Ref. & efficient. Car. ref. & clean DMV req. Pay negot. 925-422-7798

NANNY/Housekeeper: live in/out. S.R. 2 kids (2 & 4). \$1200/mo. 925-686-6543

NANNY: live-in for 3 in Antioch. Spk. Tagalog. dvl. rm/ba. 925-584-0976

NANNY: live out, 7/9 yr. job, ud cook. CDL. Eng. spk. 32/hr. 925-838-1135

NANNY: Orinda, M-F afternoons, 3 children, must have car. 415-509-4507

Domestics

NANNY NEEDED: live-in, P/T, long term, 2 toddlers, Spain spk, ref. req. Travels from Tahoe, to Bay area on 1st. Refs. 775-815-3337

NANNY: Pleasanton, Th-Fri after sch. 2 girls, 10 hrs. CDL req. 925-993-3687

NANNY P/T: for infant in Pinole area. Live-out. Exp. req'd. 925-831-2884

Employment

ACCOUNTANT-F/C BKPR: G/L P/T for 10 apts. 5 yrs. exp. Excel. Oakland RE Dev/PM co. nr. BART. 510-891-9299 or email: amonroed@afavans.com

ACCOUNTANT: Staff Accountant. Our Employer: Audit Dept. is seeking an entry level Staff I/F/T auditing post. Must have degree from 4-yr. college or univ. with major or concentration in accounting and/or communication skills, planning on qualifying for the CPA certificate & have own car for business use. We offer competitive compensation, OT, plus medical, dental, vision, 401k, profit sharing, group life, business casual attire, flexible working environment, beautiful bay views, fun firm social events. Mail or fax your res. to: 160 Spear Street, Ste 1900 San Francisco, CA 94105 FAX 415-777-1974 ATTN: Human Resources

ACCOUNTANT-Tax Mgr: Armstrong, Bagdasarian Associates, LLP seeks CPA tax mgr. Must be strong in all areas of tax, high net worth individual planning, dental, vision, 401k, profit sharing, group life, business casual attire, flexible working environment, beautiful bay views, fun firm social events. Mail or fax your res. to: 160 Spear Street, Ste 1900 San Francisco, CA 94105 FAX 415-777-1974 ATTN: Human Resources

ACCOUNTING: A/R Billing & Collections Specialist. FT pos. Data entry; spreadsheets; invoicing; collections; strong Excel and ten-key by touch. MAS90 exp. helpful. Submit resume with sal. expectations to: Bernice Baker, 1500 Newell Ave., Ste. 305, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or fax to: 925/944-9031. No phone calls please.

ACCOUNTING

Principal Accountant: Salary range: \$4518 - \$7228

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is seeking a Principal Accountant for the Compensation, Benefits, and Worklife Programs Department. The candidate will direct all aspects of the accounting and benefits functions of two separate corporations (one non-profit, one taxable). LLNL offers a challenging environment and a competitive salary/benefits package. When applying for this position, go to Advanced Search and enter source code: ANCC03BHR in the Source Code field on the Search Job Postings web page at <http://jobs.llnl.gov>. EOE. US citizenship required.

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ACCOUNTING: MWH, a premier environmental consulting firm, is seeking an outstanding professional for the following position in our Walnut Creek office.

Project Accountant: The position will support the financial functions of assigned offices & provide coordination of the flow between offices & central acctg. This position interacts with client service mngers, project mngers, & admin. assts. daily. Duties include preparing & maintaining billings & billing files, assisting in revenue recognition to insure all is properly classified, preparing contract (job) set ups, assisting in the establishment of client payment schedules, monitoring receipts & resolve unpaid accounts, assisting in preparation of various reports, preparing P.O.'s & acting as liaison between the accounting & engineering depts. to insure accurate & timely client billings occur.

A BS in acctg./finance or related field with 4 yrs. of related financial exp. req. Good organizational, communication and analytical skills req. Prior exp. w/ JD Edwards software pkg. des.

Send or fax resume with salary req. to: MWH, 1340 Treat Blvd., Suite 300, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. Attn: Jennifer Hayes, Fax: 925-975-3412. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

ACCOUNTING - TAX PREPARER: Small Lamorinda CPA firm seeking seasonal tax preparer. Friendly environment. P/T avail. Please fax 925-254-2631.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK: AMS.NET a high tech firm in Livermore has an immediate opening in their acctg. dept. Quickbooks exp. a plus. Interested applicants should forward their resume to: monaghan@ams.net or mail to Diana Monaghan, 502 Commerce Way, Livermore 94551

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SPECIALIST: Part-time Martinez contractor seeks P/T (20 hrs) multi-tasked, detail oriented individual to handle A/P, some A/R posting, proposals, mail, and various other administrative tasks. Computer literate (American Contractor), team player. Flex. hours. (925) 933-9167 or email: cketsch@jrcpa.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.: ERM, a leading global environmental consultancy, is seeking an outstanding candidate for the following position in the Walnut Creek office.

Project Facilitator: to support fast-paced, dynamic environmental firm. 2-5 yrs exp. w/ superior word processing / formatting skills. High School degree req., business college adus. Email resume as MS Word attachment to: erinmascaro@erm.com Include job title on Subject line. EOE/AAE M/F/D/V. www.erm.com

ADMINISTRATIVE asst.: for busy Livermore RE office. RE exp. helpful. Excellent communication & tech. skills a must. Please email resume & salary req. to: csallen@aearthlink.net

ADMINISTRATIVE Asst.: AK-airport area prof. ofc. seeks. exec. asst. to Pres. MSWord/merge. Filmmaker. event. coord. ofc. mngmt., exec. asst. exp. req. Res. sal history: VP, independent institute. Kevin Wain, Oakland 94621; Fax (510) 568-6040; kthorakus@earthlink.net Independent.org

Employment

ADMINISTRATIVE Intermediate Clerk: Premier East Bay senior community seeks P/T clerk (23 hrs, 1-5) for busy Public Safety office. Computer literate, exp. with seniors & flexibility required. Indoors and outdoors work. Competitive benefits and salary. Fax resume to 925-256-3363 EOE

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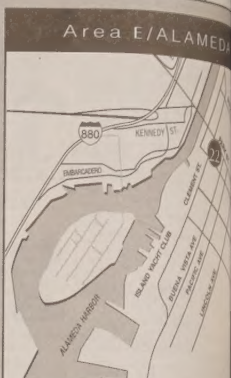
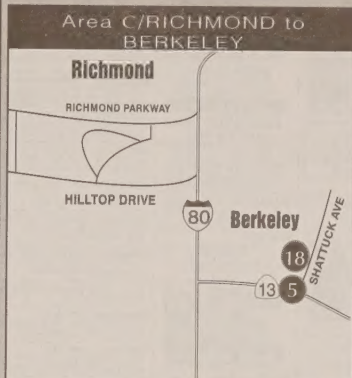
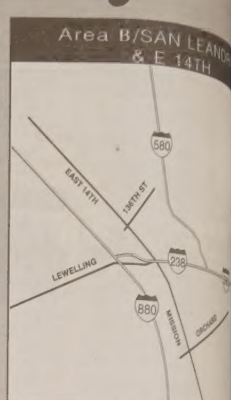
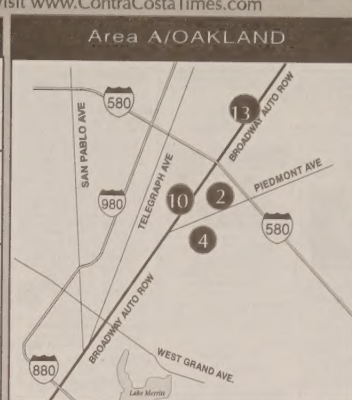
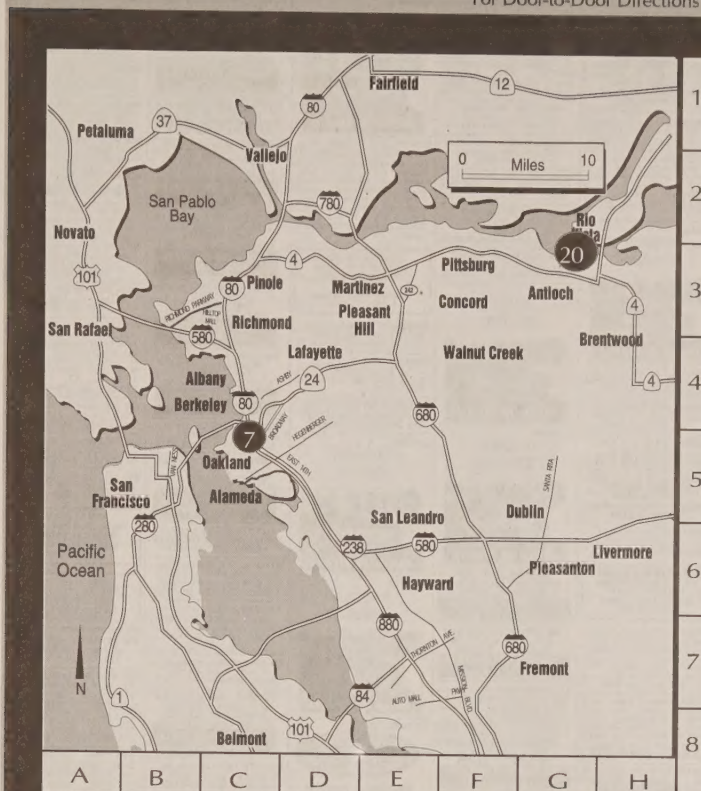
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